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WORLD OF SPORT
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Shahak: Mistake to seize journalists' records

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN and RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV Magistrate's Court Judge Gideon Barak yesterday issued an interim injunction barring the Military Police from making any use of reporters' phone records and other documents it seized under another judge's warrant the day before.

Barak's order countering one issued by Judge George Kara came in response to an appeal by the Association of Israel Journalists and Israel Radio reporters Carmela Menashe and Yoni Ben-Menahem.

Amid mounting controversy over the method used to try to stem leaks to journalists from army brass, the IDF Spokesman hinted yesterday that the orders to seize the phone records came directly from Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

Interviewed on Army Radio, IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Amos Gilad said the move to obtain the records came after consulting with Judge Advocate-General Brig.-Gen. Ori Shoham and receiving approval from the "highest authority in the IDF."

Shahak, interviewed last night on Channel 1's *Mabat* evening newsreel, said that, "In retrospect, I think that in such a case I would think it not correct to obtain a journalist's phone numbers - we should have looked for other ways. It would have been better to behave with much greater caution." The Military Police should have consulted "much more senior personnel than those who made the decision," he said.

Shahak said another mistake was "insufficient sensitivity" to the fact that the Military Police had seized "much more" information than what the court had been asked to authorize. He said the investigators should have given back what they did not need.

In the IDF's fight to stem leaks, Deputy Chief of Staff



Sailboats prepare for yesterday's fourth annual Tel Aviv spring race, which featured competitions among some 500 small craft opposite the Hilton Beach. The race, attended by Mayor Ronni Milo, included competitors from Germany, Greece, and Portugal.

Labor, Likud in high gear to woo haredim

HERB KEINON

THE chase after the haredi voter went into high gear last night, as Binyamin Netanyahu met with Shas mentor Ovadia Yosef following Shimon Peres's meeting with Agudat Yisrael chairman Moshe Feliman on Sunday.

The prize is an estimated 200,000 to 250,000 haredi voters, who could well determine the outcome of the election.

Shas spiritual leader Ovadia Yosef promised Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu last night that he would not endorse either of the two candidates for prime minister. (See story, Page 2).

Channel 2 news reported last night that Feldman came to Peres asking for solutions to the haredi housing crunch, and to set early elections for the Bnei Brak Municipality, currently governed by an Interior Ministry-appointed body. In return, the report said, Peres wants support from Agudat Yisrael, or - barring that - a call from the party's rabbis to supporters not

to vote in the race for prime minister.

Peres reportedly made a similar request to Yosef when he met with him last week. It was that meeting that precipitated last night's meeting between Yosef and Netanyahu.

Meir Porush, the new head of the United Torah Judaism list, said on Channel 1's *Mabat* newsreel last night it is unlikely the party's Council of Sages will decide whom its followers should vote for, or whether they should vote for any candidate for prime minister, until after Shavuet - five days before the elections. In a related development, Degel Hatorah and Agudat Yisrael signed an agreement last night to run again as one faction, the United Torah Judaism Party. This came less than a day after Degel Hatorah signed up as a separate party with the Central Elections Commission, plan-

ing to run on its own.

The sticking point was the position on the joint list of each party's representatives. Aguda wanted the first and third position on the list, and a mid-term rotation with Degel for the fourth slot, while Degel objected to the rotation, wanting the second and fourth slots for the full Knesset term. In the end, Aguda won out. The joint list is headed by Porush, followed by Avraham Ravitz from Degel, Shmuel Halper from Agudat, Moshe Gafni from Degel, and Avraham Lazerson of Agudat Yisrael.

Meanwhile, Shas's Council of Torah Sages selected the party's Knesset slate early yesterday morning, leaving current MK Moshe Maiya off the list. The slate will be headed by Aryeh Deri, followed by Aryeh Gamliel, Rafael Pinhasi, Shlomo Benizri, Eli Shai, head of the party's educational system, El Hama'ayan; Yitzhak Cohen, the deputy director of El Hama'ayan; and David Azulai, appointed head of the Nahal Lyon Regional Council.

Residents in North told: Go to shelters

DAVID RUDGE

TENS of thousands of people in the North were instructed to go into bomb shelters and security rooms last night, amid fears of more Katyusha attacks.

The instructions were issued after a 17-year-old boy was killed and his five-year-old brother badly injured on the outskirts of Barasheet, north of the security zone, in an unexplained explosion.

Two other children, six and eight, were reportedly wounded in explosions in the area. There were no reports of shelling, and it is believed the casualties may have been caused by either mines or roadside bombs.

Hizbullah Radio announced that four roadside bombs had been detonated in the area, and blamed Israel.

The IDF said it had not carried out any operations in south Lebanon yesterday. Nevertheless, a statement said, because of the

Hizbullah Radio announcement, the IDF had taken precautions necessary to protect residents of the North.

The IDF also reserved the right to respond appropriately, if Hizbullah fired Katyushas.

The announcement once again put IDF and South Lebanese Army troops inside the security zone and along the border on full alert.

The incident followed another just over a week ago in which two Lebanese civilians were accidentally killed and another wounded by IDF fire.

In response, Hizbullah fired 28 Katyushas at the Galilee, lightly wounding a woman and damaging several buildings in Kiryat Shmona.

On previous occasions, both before and after the Operation Accountability understandings, Hizbullah has responded to casualties north of the zone with Katyusha attacks on the Galilee.

PM: Syria will have to liberalize

SYRIA has no choice but to liberalize and become more democratic, Prime Minister Shimon Peres told *The Jerusalem Post* in a holiday interview.

"I think nobody is left with a choice. All the non-liberal forces cannot feed the nation. You need democracy for economy; you need democracy for peace," said Peres.

Regarding Iran, Peres said that it was a "scandal" that some European countries are continuing to extend credit to the Iranian regime.

"I don't think it's just money. But [rather] a refusal to face critical situations and [instead] taking more accommodating look at things," he said.

Interview, Page 7

Moroccan delegation due for Mimouna

DAVID MAKOVSKY

KING Hassan II of Morocco, for the first time, is sending an official, high-level delegation here to greet Mimouna celebrants. Mimouna organizer MK Rafi Edri (Labor) announced yesterday.

The delegation will be headed by Mahjubi Ahadial, leader of the People's Party, the largest in Morocco, who is also a former premier. He will be joined by Deputy Minister of Culture Mohammed Tzadiki, Supreme Court Chief Justice Maxim Azulai, who is Jewish. Rabat University President Prof. Abdul Benjalun, Manufacturers and Tourism Association head Abdel Hadi Alami, and Serge Berdugo and Roberto Saraf, leading officials of the Moroccan Jewish community.

Edri called the visit a "further contribution of the king towards the peace process and bridging

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مكتبة القدس

Yosef: No endorsement for PM

SHAS spiritual leader Ovadia Yosef last night promised Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu that he would not endorse either of the two candidates for prime minister.

Likud sources said they were pleased by the announcement, as they understood it to mean Yosef would stay neutral and give his followers freedom to vote as they wished.

However, the sources noted, this did not negate the possibility that Yosef would at some point tell his followers not to vote for prime minister.

Meanwhile, Netanyahu repeated his vow to press on with the peace process, saying that his people are in contact with Arab governments.

The meeting with Yosef was eagerly awaited in the Likud, where there is growing nervousness about Prime Minister Shimon Peres's efforts to convince haredi rabbis to instruct their followers not to vote in the prime ministerial race. Labor thereby seeks to deny Netanyahu the support he is seen as enjoying in the religious community.

Peres's meetings with Agudat Yisrael leaders and his readiness to quickly approve low-cost housing for the haredi community, as well as new Bnei Brak municipal elections, are all regarded as part of the same Labor

effort to reduce Netanyahu's support. With the contest as close as it is, the estimated 250,000 eligible haredi voters are seen as crucial.

A top Likud source said that "we cannot imagine any haredi leader would instruct his people not to exercise their democratic right. In the end, we believe the haredim will vote, but Labor's behavior here should be noted. It is not calling on people to vote for Peres, but are asking for instructions that will prevent people from voting at all."

The feeling in the Likud is that the haredi community will not take a clear stand until shortly before the election, making the most of the suspense gripping both sides.

At his meeting with Yosef, Netanyahu asked for his support. But his people did not expect a commitment, and it was clear that Netanyahu brought David Levy with him to the meeting with Netanyahu, as well as the Likud's newest star, Yitzhak Mordechai, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, and MK Ovadia Eli, the party's liaison to the religious community. Netanyahu himself intended to brief Yosef on his foreign policy, while Mor-

dechai prepared a briefing on security issues. Levy intended to speak about socio-economic issues, and Olmert on Jerusalem.

Yosef had met Peres on the eve of Pesach and did not respond to his request that he instruct his followers not to take part in the prime ministerial vote.

Earlier in the day, Netanyahu filled out his official candidacy forms, and vowed to continue the peace process, albeit according to the Likud's guidelines, topped by security concerns.

He said that his people are being contacted by representatives from a number of unnamed Arab countries, and that they had met with them in the region, as well as in Europe and the US.

He said that this did not include Syria and that no negotiations as such are being conducted, as these can only be carried out by an elected government.

Meanwhile, the Likud reacted to Labor plans to make personal attacks on Netanyahu after the holiday - including introducing a sticker reading: "Israel is too much for Netanyahu" - by saying that "the State of Israel is greater than any of us - including Peres. But this isn't the question. What should be asked is who is worthy to lead Israel, and Peres certainly isn't."

Labor to go on campaign offensive against Netanyahu

LABOR intends to launch a series of personal attacks against Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday, under the slogan "Israel is too big for Bibi."

Labor's Young Guard will use the slogan "Bibi is unsuitable" in its demonstrations.

The plan emerged from intensive consultations among the party's campaign advisers, including French media expert Jacques Seguela, who advised the late Francois Mitterrand and seven other world leaders, all of whom won election.

Seguela reportedly advised Peres to be assertive, but not aggressive. His advice is said to have angered the information campaign staff, headed by Haim Ramon, because it supported the line promoted by Ehud Barak, the head of Peres's personal campaign.

According to Seguela, Peres

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

should take a "stronger" stand and not refrain from attacking the Likud and its leader. Ramon had urged Peres to conduct a positive campaign and ignore Netanyahu.

Campaign sources criticized Labor for having too many advisers and campaign staffs, which are vying for prestige.

"Peres doesn't need foreign experts. A French expert is good for the French, not necessarily for Israel," one source said.

Labor's ministers receive a daily briefing on the topics of the day and how to use them in their statements to the press.

The briefing is distributed on an information sheet formulated by media chairman Avraham Burg, after nightly discus-

sions with a special response team.

Yesterday's sheet, for instance, focused on three topics. The first, headed "Iran against the peace government," advises ministers to say: "The Likud has got things confused. The government of Israel is not the enemy. Why is the Likud suddenly coming out in defense of Iran, rather than standing behind the government and its war on terrorism?"

The second brings up the lack of trust among the Likud leaders: "When [Ariel] Sharon doesn't believe Bibi, and [Ze'ev] Binjamin Begin doesn't believe Sharon, who can have confidence in all of them together?"

The third addresses the meetings between settler leaders and Palestinians.

Meretz to Peres: Reveal promises made to settlers

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MERETZ leader Yossi Sarid yesterday called on Prime Minister Shimon Peres to reveal any commitments he has made to the settlers from the territories. He also asked if he had promised them that all or most of the settlements would remain in place.

If Peres or his representative made such a promise, he said, "it is an insurmountable obstacle to peace. We can understand electoral considerations, but this jeopardizes the whole future of the peace process. It borders on irresponsibility, and the public must know where things stand."

Sarid said that according to Meretz's platform, which he presented at a press conference, 6 percent-7 percent of the West Bank will remain in Israel's hands, and most of the settlements, "a first-class security burden, will have to be negotiated for security reasons."

Meretz is not calling for a return to the 1967 borders, but for borders to be determined in negotiations on the basis of security and demographic considerations.

The platform upholds the Palestinians' right to establish an independent state. "There is no separation without a Palestinian state. Separation means two entities separated by a border."

Sarid stressed that changing or canceling the Palestinian Covenant is a *sine qua non* for Meretz, the violation of which will have dangerous implications for the continuation of the peace process.

The platform states that for a total peace with Syria, anchored in strict security arrangements and a guarantee of Israel's water sources, Israel should agree to gradual withdrawal to the international border.

It says Jerusalem will not be divided, but its future status will be determined in the peace arrangements, which will take into consideration all the religious and national affinities in the city.

Meretz is also demanding affirmative action for people of Sephardi origin, women, Arabs, and other groups, as well as legislation protecting the rights of homosexuals.

Sarid stated that any coalition except a Labor-Meretz one will not only halt the peace process, but turn it backwards. "Peace is still very fragile. It's a mistake to think it's in our pocket. Without Meretz, even with Peres, it will be a different government, with a different policy, and everything could be turned around. Without Meretz, there is no Oslo 3," he said.

He blasted Labor and the Likud for "the costume ball they are having. The Likud is dressing up as Labor, and Labor is dressing up as the Likud. The Likud is turning into the peace party, while the word peace has disappeared from Labor's slogan. Meretz has no masks, but is telling it like it is, as usual - a Palestinian state and withdrawal from the Golan, with security arrangements and normalization."



Eight of the nine candidates who will contend Thursday for slot 25 on Labor's Knesset list, which is reserved for a representative of immigrants from the CIS. From left: Aharon Yuldovitz, Shimon Golosinsky, Alexander Yurnovitzky, Sofia Landver, Lily Bazzova, Rozen Flaum (foreground), Alexander Aterman, and Sergei Michalei. The missing ninth is Shimon Bafaria.

(Ailon Ron/Israel Sun)

Meretz gets 'The Peace Song' rights for campaign

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MERETZ yesterday took the two large parties by surprise by purchasing the exclusive rights to use "The Peace Song" ("Shir HaShalom") in its campaign broadcasts on radio and television.

Meretz agreed to pay composer Yair Rosenblum and lyricist Ya'acov Rothblitt \$20,000 for the use

of the famous song originally sung by Miri Aloni and remembered as being the one Yitzhak Rabin sang alongside her in his last appearance on the night he was assassinated at Kikar Malchei Yisrael.

Both Labor and the Likud

campaign leaders had asked for the rights to use the song in their campaigns, but were turned down by the songwriters.

However, Labor campaign sources yesterday expressed satisfaction by what they called Mer-

etz's "hijacking" the song. Had Labor used the song in its campaign, the sources said, it would have been accused of manipulating Rabin's murder for political purposes. Also, it could alienate religious or traditional sectors because it urges "don't whisper a prayer" but rather, "shout for peace."

Settlers' meeting leaves council at a crossroads

COMMENT

HERB KEINON

REVELATIONS that settlement leaders have been meeting with Palestinians, including highly-placed members of the Palestinian Authority, have caused an uproar in the settlement movement precisely because of which settlement leaders were involved.

Had the meetings been attended by Ofra Rabbi Yoel Bin-Nun, a member of the settlement council's secretariat, many an eyebrow would have been raised. This type of renegade activity could be expected from Bin-Nun, who has earned a reputation over the past few years as the settlement movement's chief iconoclast.

But Yisrael Harel and Uri Elitzur? Two names inextricably wound up with Gush Emunim? Among the founders of the settlement council? These men are not settlement renegades, they are

the very bedrock of settlement leadership.

The other name that has caused gasps of disbelief is that of Rabbi Eliezer Waldman, who along with Elyakim Ha'etzi represents the settlement council's right wing. But Waldman attended only one meeting, and his involvement is being dismissed largely as a fluke.

Not so Harel and Elitzur. Calls have been heard since the meeting, the recent meetings will surely do much more damage to the council. Though some settlement officials have dismissed the meetings as "political naivete," neither Elitzur nor Harel can be ac-

editor of the settlement movement's journal *Nekuda*.

Earlier in the year, a forum of so called pragmatists - among whom Elitzur and Harel are not counted - set up a forum to represent the so called non-ideological settlements. The background to this move was a decision by the council not to meet with Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

If that non-meeting caused a near-split in the settlement council, the recent meetings will surely do much more damage to the council. Though some settlement officials have dismissed the meetings as "political naivete," neither Elitzur nor Harel can be ac-

used of being political naifs. They attended meetings with the Palestinians. They knew who the partners were. And they had to realize how the meetings would be interpreted if made public.

The council, like the settlement community, is split between those who feel that talking with the PA is merely coming to grips with reality, and those who feel it is selling out Eretz Yisrael and is giving the Palestinians recognition.

The settlement council is at a crossroads. If the Likud wins the election, the council's job as Pre-emptive Protester will come to an end. If Labor wins, the council will have to look inward and come up with a different strategy. Revelations of the talks with the Palestinians will simply force the council to figure out in which direction it is headed sooner than it had hoped.

Third Way solution to Golan includes no territorial concessions

LIAT COLLINS

THE Third Way has reportedly paid a large sum for a study of possible solutions to the problem of the Golan Heights in the event of peace with Syria. The outline plan does not include territorial concessions, according to party leaders, but they were reluctant to reveal details yesterday.

In keeping with the reason the party was founded, it kicked off its electoral campaign yesterday with a tour of the Golan Heights.

Without specifying the ideas contained in the study, party leaders said some of the conclusions were "far-reaching." Apparently the study suggests the possibility of a demilitarized zone on both the Israeli and Syrian sides of the border.

"The program is similar to that prepared by the Foreign Ministry under Shimon Peres. It assumes the possibility that, although it's not happened yet, there will one

day be a New Middle East with true peaceful relations. A peace not built on destruction, evictions, or population transfers but on cooperation to the benefit of the four sides," said party No. 2 Yehuda Harel.

The Golan Heights borders four countries: Israel, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.

The party is not saying how much it paid for the 100-page study, which is considered a basis for a plan for future relations with Syria.

Palestinians still plan to meet Hamas in Amman

JON IMMANUEL

A MULTIFACTION Palestinian group still plans to go to Amman to meet with Hamas officials there, despite a call by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to cancel the meeting and a denial by Hamas in Jordan that any has been arranged.

Riyad Malki, associated with the opposition Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said Arafat "cannot tell us not to go, as we are not part of the PA."

The presence in the group of Faisal Hussein, a PA minister without portfolio, does not change matters "as he has a special position," said Malki.

Arafat asked Hussein to cancel the meeting, following accusations the PA tortures prisoners by Hamas in Jordan, and its calling suicide bombers "heroes." The delegation will leave even if

Hussein does not go, said Malki. It has been held up because of Jordan's refusal to grant its members entry, although most of the five members still have Jordanian passports. Jamal Hamami, associated with Hamas, was denied entry at the border last week.

A leaflet from Hamas officials in Jordan, distributed in Jerusalem Sunday, denied Arafat's accusations that suicide bombers were directed by orders from officials in Jordan. It also said that "we do not need mediators," referring to the delegation, calling it a plot to identify them as the leaders when they are merely supporters.

Meanwhile, Arafat, in a speech to Bir Zeit University students Saturday, reiterated claims that "Jewish extremists," whom he likened to French OAS opponents of Algerian independence, were behind both the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and the bombings. Arafat

also questioned Israeli dealings with Iraq and Iran.

He praised the *fatwa* issued by Sheikh Tantawi, the chief imam of Cairo's Al-Azhar Mosque, who said suicide bombings against innocent people are not military actions and therefore are forbidden by Islam.

Arafat is to return from Saudi Arabia today and meet with the Palestinian Council in Ramallah tomorrow, where he will name his cabinet.

In a related development, Palestinian National Council acting chairman Salim Zaanoun said that 17 articles of a new Palestinian covenant have been drafted by a special committee. The new covenant will either augment or replace the old one, depending on the results of a PNC meeting scheduled for next month.

The new covenant talks of a Palestinian state with its capital in Jerusalem, and close ties to Jordan.

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Army removes mobile homes from Yitzhar

HERB KEINON

THE IDF removed six mobile homes yesterday placed on a hill outside the settlement of Yitzhar two weeks ago without the proper permits.

An estimated 200 police, border policemen and IDF soldiers went to the settlement to move the mobile homes. A permanent structure that was built there was not taken down because the police did not have the proper court orders, said Haim Bernstein, the settlement's secretary.

According to Bernstein, the mobile homes were placed on land that appears inside the settlement's master plan, but which has not yet been declared state land. The committee that meets to declare state land in his region has not met in over four years, he said. A generator and water tank were also removed from the site.

Palestinians from the nearby village of Burin claim that the homes were placed on their land,

and have complained about the matter to both Israeli and Palestinian Authority officials.

The mobile homes were removed without any interference from Yitzhar settlers.

Bernstein said that the mobile homes, supplied by Amana, were not yet hooked up to the necessary infrastructure, and did not yet have people living in them full time.

In response to the evacuation, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea and Samaria issued a statement that read, "The mobile homes in Yitzhar were placed on state land. The plans for Yitzhar were not completed because of bureaucratic reasons. The government's special committee that is supposed to approve building in the settlements does not meet, and as a result hundreds of similar requests have been held up for political reasons."



Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert (right) and 'Jerusalem Post' publisher Yehuda Levy examine a witch puppet at The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair yesterday.

Olmert praises 'Post' fair

GREER FAY CASHMAN

ONE of the first customers at The Jerusalem Post Pessah Handicrafts Fair was Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, who before officially opening the event, toured the stalls accompanied by Beverlee Black, director of The Jerusalem Post Funds, and Yehuda Levy, the paper's publisher.

Praising the fair in general, Olmert expressed thanks to The Jerusalem Post for giving the public the opportunity to see artists specializing in crafts with

a Jewish flavor." He also noted that the fair enables the paper to support many important causes - some of them in conjunction with the municipality.

Both exhibitors and visitors came from all over the country. There were also several tourists, some of whom had been to previous fairs. "I like arts and crafts fairs, and I know a few of the artists," said Ruth Bernstein, of Jerusalem.

"This is one of the good fairs. It's less crowded, it's cooler, I like it," pronounced Toba Frankel, of Beit El.

"It's bigger and it certainly has a lot more variety available," declared Robert Fixler of Melbourne, Australia, who had previously visited the fair three years ago.

The fair, which originated in Jerusalem, was held in Ra'anana last year and in Tel Aviv the year before.

Peace Now activists held in Karnei Shomron

HERB KEINON

SIX Peace Now activists were arrested yesterday while demonstrating at a ground-breaking ceremony for a new mall in Karnei Shomron.

The six, carrying signs that read "Yes to peace, no to the mall," were detained, five for disturbing the peace and one for attacking a policeman. Shouting matches erupted between the protesters and some Karnei Shomron residents at the ceremony.

The six, including Peace Now political secretary Moshe Raz and spokesman Alon Arnon, were released last night.

Raz said from the police lock-up in Kedumim that the police acted brutally. A Peace Now spokesman said that a complaint will be filed with the Justice Ministry unit that investigates charges of police brutality.

Hundreds of settlers came to the ground-breaking for the mall, which has been hailed by settle-

ment leaders as significant for the region both politically and economically.

The initial investment in the 6,000 square-meter mall is \$4.5 million, with the money coming from Swiss investor Nissan Haeshuri.

Raz said that the Peace Now activists came to "protest the settlers' celebration. They are mocking the government that started with declarations of a settlement freeze and drying up the settlements, and is finishing with massive building. This government has brought more settlers to the territories than any other government."

Karnei Shomron Regional Council head Yehuda Lieberman said that the protest did not spoil the ceremony. "It was enjoyable for me to stand at a ground-breaking ceremony and watch someone else demonstrate, while I build, create, and develop," he said.

Court okays registration of Tibi's party

THE High Court of Justice yesterday rejected a petition that would have prevented Parties Registrar Ze'ev Boneh from registering Dr. Ahmed Tibi's Democratic Arab Party for Renewal.

The petition had been filed by Meron Isaacson, who argued that since Tibi is an adviser to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, his election to the Knesset would establish a conflict of interests. He also argued that the platform of Tibi's party seeks to damage the Jewish character of the state.

After the petition was filed, Tibi announced that should he be elected to the Knesset, he would resign as Arafat's adviser. Therefore, the hearing dealt mainly with the platform's position on the Palestinians' right of return and Israel as the Jewish state.

Attorney Hanan Meltzer, representing Isaacson, argued that Tibi's platform supports the right to return, without specifying to where Palestinian refugees would return. He also said it seeks to redefine Israel as a "state of all its citizens," rather than a Jewish state.

The state argued that the party platform calls for the refugee issue to be resolved in negotiations between Israel and the P.A. Justices - Mishael Cheshin, Yitzhak Zamir, and Zvi Tal, however, rejected the petition, clearing the way for Tibi's party to be officially registered. (Jm)



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Unabomber's trail - from Montana to California

BOB ANEZ
HELENA, Montana

TWO people remember seeing Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski in Northern California, and federal investigators reportedly have placed him there on dates when bombs were mailed from the region.

"He looked like one of those bums who come in in the morning and have a sandwich and cup of coffee and walk out," said Mike Singh, a Burger King manager in Sacramento, California.

The last four bombs from the Unabomber were mailed from Northern California, including two postmarked in Sacramento.

Frank Hensley, a desk clerk at the nearby Royal Hotel, told The Associated Press he saw Kaczynski in the neighborhood near the bus depot. He said Kaczynski stayed at the hotel two or three times over the past five years, usually in the late spring or summer, Hensley said.

"If it wasn't for all this, I'd be expecting to see him about now," Hensley said, referring to Kaczynski's arrest last week.

The *New York Times*, citing unidentified federal officials, reported yesterday that records from Sacramento hotels tie Kaczynski to the dates investigators believe that bombs and letters to news organizations were mailed.

The lawyer who told the FBI of the Kaczynski family's suspicions said yesterday they never sought assurances that the government would waive the death penalty.

Kaczynski's mother wasn't told of the suspicions until about two weeks ago, said Tony Bisceglie, lawyer for Kaczynski's brother, David.

"She expressed her sincere belief that Ted could not be the Unabomber, but if it was, he must be stopped," Bisceglie told reporters in Washington.

David Kaczynski tipped authorities after noticing his brother's old writings were similar to the Unabomber's anti-technology manifestos, the lawyer said.

"There were similarities in ideology, phraseology and the spelling of certain words," Bisceglie said.

"I think that David is in shock. I think that David thinks that his brother was involved."

He said the family didn't know

about the government's \$1 million reward.

Investigators building a case against Kaczynski are searching the country for evidence that the reclusive former math professor left his tap-paper shack to mail or leave bombs in other states.

Agents searching the Montana cabin have found evidence directly linking him to one of the bombings, the *Los Angeles Times* reported, quoting sources who would not provide any specifics.

A federal official told The Associated Press investigators defused a live bomb that was found in the cabin, where they also found bomb-making chemicals and components, and notes on making bombs.

The *Times* said that the device not only was completed, but had batteries attached. The newspaper's sources would not say if they had evidence that Kaczynski was preparing to deliver that bomb.

Federal prosecutors from California, New Jersey, Montana, Connecticut, Illinois and Utah were scheduled to meet in Washington to discuss how to proceed with the case and where to hold the trial.

The Sacramento Bee has reported that Sacramento is the favored site because two of the killings were there.

FBI spokesman George Grotz confirmed that agents were investigating whether Kaczynski had traveled to the Sacramento area.

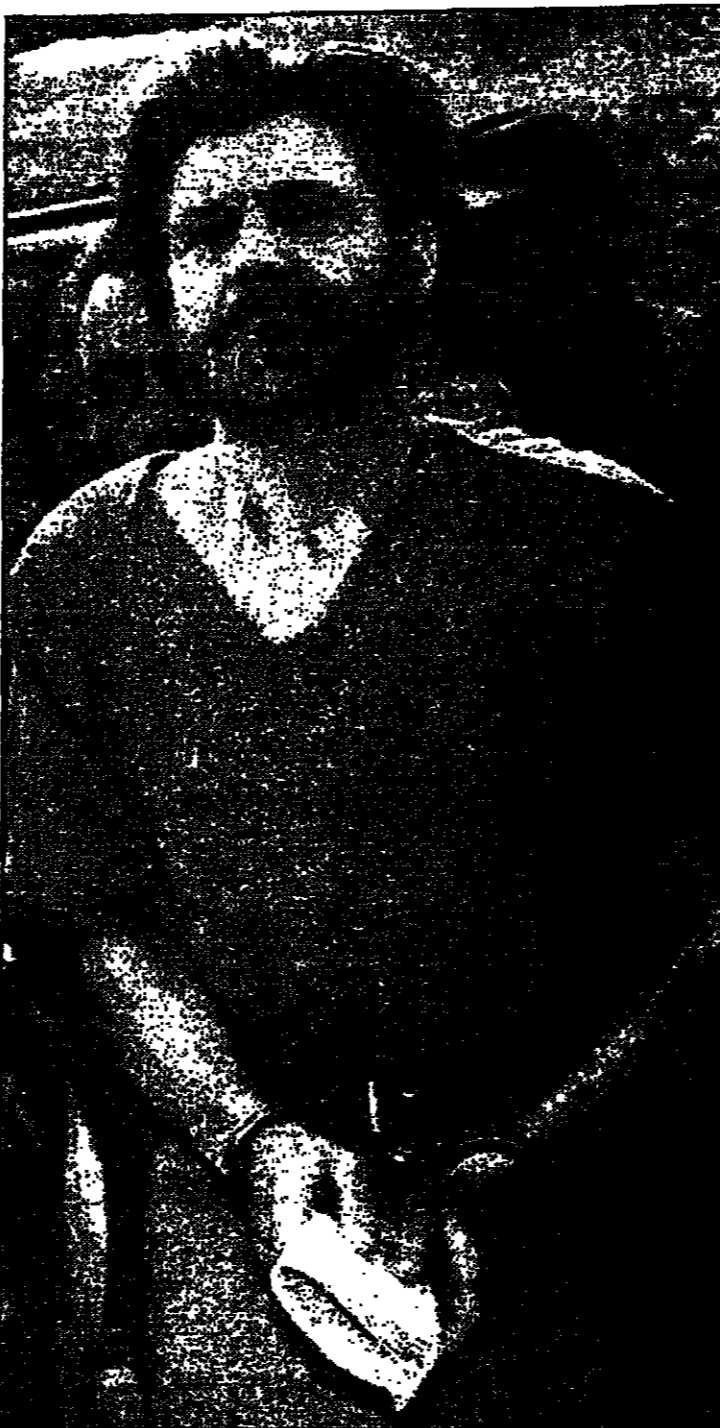
Two bombs postmarked in Sacramento exploded in June 1993, wounding one person in San Francisco and another at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut.

A bomb mailed from San Francisco in 1994 killed a New Jersey advertising executive. And a fourth bomb postmarked in Oakland, California, exploded April 24, killing a timber industry lobbyist in Sacramento.

The painstaking search of Kaczynski's small cabin was expected to continue into the week, Grotz said.

A typewriter found in the cabin appears to be the one the Unabomber used to type the manifesto and letters.

Agents found anti-technology writings in the cabin that could be early drafts of the Unabomber's



Unabomber suspect Theodore Kaczynski being led into US Federal Court last week. (AP)

35,000-word manifesto, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported yesterday.

A source close to the case said the writings "echo in style and tone" the treatise published last year by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

The *Chicago Tribune*, also citing unidentified sources, reported Sunday that agents determined that Kaczynski was in the Chicago area when the first four Unabomber devices were planted or mailed from there in the late 1970s and early 1980s. (AP)

Source: Rostenkowski to get 17 months in plea deal

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former US Rep. Dan Rostenkowski has agreed to plead guilty to two federal corruption charges in return for a recommendation from prosecutors for a 17-month prison term and \$100,000 fine, a source close to the case said yesterday.

Rostenkowski could be in court as early as this week to enter the plea to charges that effectively ended his political career, said the source, who requested anonymity. No hearing has been scheduled, Rostenkowski, 68, a Chicago Democrat, lost his bid for re-election to a 19th term in November 1994 after he was charged five months earlier with 17 felony counts. He allegedly plundered nearly \$700,000 from the government and had ghost employees kick back paychecks to his office.

Last month, US District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson dismissed charges that Rostenkowski lied to Congress about alleged schemes involving ghost employees on the payroll, personal purchases at the House stationery store, cash-for-stamps at the House Post Office and vehicle leases in his district. Her ruling left 13 of the original 17 counts. The scheduled trial date is May 15. Kevin Ohlson, spokesman for the US Attorney Eric Holder, would not comment on the report.

Brando under fire for comments on Jews in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Actor Marlon Brando came under fire on Sunday for a television interview in which he said Hollywood is "run by Jews" and "owned by Jews."

by many, including Low Wasserman and Jay Kanter, his longtime friends," Archer stated in his column.

The Jewish Defense League vowed to make the rest of Brando's life "a living hell" following his appearance on Friday night on CNN's *Larry King Live*.

Neither Brando nor his representatives could be reached for comment.

"You gladly take money from Hollywood producers and then vilify the industry with slanderous accusations of antisemitic vulgarities," the group said in a letter to the 72-year-old actor entitled "Message to the Godfather of Hate."

In a nationally televised interview, Brando, an Academy Award winner famous for roles in *The Godfather*, *On the Waterfront* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*, denounced what he said is a Jewish-run movie establishment that has exploited other racial and ethnic stereotypes.

"They should have a greater sensitivity about the issue of people who are suffering because they've [been] exploited. We have seen the nigger, we have seen the greaseball, we have seen the chink, the slit-eyed dangerous Jap... but we never saw the kike because they know perfectly well that's where you draw the wagons around," Brando told King.

"They should have a greater sensitivity about the issue of people who are suffering because they've [been] exploited. We have seen the nigger, we have seen the greaseball, we have seen the chink, the slit-eyed dangerous Jap... but we never saw the kike because they know perfectly well that's where you draw the wagons around," Brando told King.

"Hollywood is run by Jews; it is owned by Jews and they should have a greater sensitivity," said Brando, who urged Hollywood to try to improve relations.

"Hollywood is run by Jews; it is owned by Jews and they should have a greater sensitivity," said Brando, who urged Hollywood to try to improve relations.

Jerry Garcia's ashes sprinkled into the Ganges

NEW DELHI (AP) - In India's holy city of Rishikesh, where Hindu sages and pilgrims travel for salvation, Jerry Garcia's widow sprinkled the ashes of the *Grateful Dead* leader into the Ganges River following a 10-day vigil.

NEW YORK (AP) - More than 11 years after a confrontation between black youths and a white engineer in a New York City subway triggered a nationwide debate about urban crime, race, vigilantism and fear, a \$50 million lawsuit goes to trial this week.

Deborah Garcia and Bob Weir, a member of the legendary American band, waded into the swirling waters of India's holy river and released the ashes as dawn broke Thursday.

The lawsuit against subway gunman Bernhard Goetz was filed by Darrell Cabey, one of four teenagers shot by Goetz on December 22, 1984. A pre-trial hearing was set for yesterday, with jury selection to follow.

During the ceremony, Weir, Jerry Garcia's best friend prayed that he would "travel to the stars," said London's *The Independent*, which broke the story yesterday.

Cabey, now 30, suffered brain damage and was paralyzed. He now has the mental capacity of an eight-year-old.

Child molester released from Texas prison

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (Reuters) - A convicted child molester who has said he may kill his next victim if the state does not castrate him was released from prison yesterday and placed in a halfway house, officials said.

"He will be under some of the most restrictive constraints ever placed on anyone released on parole," Todd said.

Larry Don McQuay was taken by car to a halfway house in his hometown of San Antonio, where Texas Department of Corrections spokesman Larry Todd said he would be under 24-hour guard and wearing an electronic monitoring bracelet so police would be able to track his movements.

McQuay, 32, claims to have molested more than 200 children but has been convicted of only one case in which he had sex with the five-year-old son of a girlfriend. He served six years of an eight-year prison sentence before he was released under state parole rules.

because he said he cannot control his impulses to have sex with children. "If I am not castrated I am concerned that I will molest another child, possibly even killing that child," he said.

Morales said last week that the state would pay for the procedure but warned that castration is not considered a cure for child molesters.

McQuay said he used his job as a school bus driver in San Antonio to find his victims. "I didn't look at it like I was harming them. I felt that what I was doing was natural," he told the *Houston Chronicle*.

"It appears to be the opinion of a majority of clinicians who have written on the subject that no surgical procedure - including castration - can be viewed as a fool-proof method of 'curing' sex offenders," Morales said in a letter to the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles.

He has asked to be castrated. (Continued from Page 1) Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i said yesterday he had recently disciplined a brigadier general for leaking information to the media. "The IDF will not tolerate leaks. We are not talking of information that requires approval

from the censor, but information on discussions of, for example the General Staff, which make their way to the media," Vilna'i said. "Our duty is to locate the source of these leaks," he added. "We have no intention of hampering the media or journalists. They

are doing their job, but we must find the officers who are leaking information." Security sources said the general was from the Northern Command and reprimanded for leak-

(Continued from Page 1) gaps between Moslems and Jews."

MIMOUNA

Among those with whom the delegation will meet is Shas spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

Dayan has asked the US to urge Hassan himself to visit before the elections. However, a US diplomat has played down the possibility, saying, "The king views a trip to Israel as an adventure - and he is not adventurous."

Edri met with Hassan last week, when he was formally notified that Morocco would be sending a delegation. "I see this delegation as renewing an old custom in Morocco, where members of the Arab community and government officials would greet the Jewish community after Pessah, give them back their *hametz*, and provide sweets," he said.

There is speculation that Hassan is reluctant to visit because of his position as head of the Jerusalem Committee of the Arab League. However, Edri said: "I think there is a chance, but I won't say how big or small."

Deputy Foreign Minister Eli

The delegation, which is arriving this evening and will stay at least four days, will attend the opening of the Mimouna celebrations in Jerusalem tomorrow evening. The opening will be attended by Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu. On Thursday, the group will greet Israelis of Moroccan extraction at Mimouna celebrations in Jerusalem, Mazkeret Batya, and Ashdod.

SHAHAK

ing information on an incident in south Lebanon.

"We most nip this phenomenon in the bud," said journalists' union chairman Sara Friedman yesterday. "This may have far-reaching consequences."

The sources added that the officer suspected of recently leaking classified information to journalists was a captain from the civil administration office in Hebron.

In 1992 the union reached an agreement with the police regarding the protection of journalists and their sources, following the questioning of a reporter after he published classified information. Police sources said yesterday the police have not requested any court order such as the one granted to the Military Police.

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Over 100 dead in Kurd rebel clash

FERIT DEMIR
TUNCELI, Turkey

TURKISH security officials said yesterday that 90 Kurdish guerrillas and 27 soldiers were killed in three days of some of the bloodiest fighting in a 12-year-old separatist rebel campaign.

The clashes put a severe strain on a unilateral cease-fire declared by the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels last December but ignored by the government.

The regional governor's office in the city of Diyarbakir said 90 PKK fighters and 27 troops died in clashes in the mountainous north of Diyarbakir province and in the neighboring Bingol province.

"I am deeply saddened that 27 of our worthy sons were martyred in an operation by the Turkish armed forces," President Suleyman Demirel said in a message carried by the Anatolian news agency.

Fighting between thousands of troops and a group of 200-250 guerrillas, recently arrived in Turkey from training camps in northern Iraq, began late last Friday. Clashes were still breaking out in the area, the governor's office said.

Rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, believed to be based in Syria, called a cease-fire last December but ordered his forces to fight back if attacked.

Eighteen rebels and three soldiers died in fighting in a wooded area on the border between Bingol and Tunceli provinces in



Demonstrators threaten riot police during a protest on the Ormeau Road in South Belfast. The protest began earlier in the day when about 60 members of the Apprentice Boys order were prevented by the police from entering the mainly Catholic Lower Ormeau Road. (Reuters)

Violence erupts as police block Protestant march in Belfast

BELFAST (Reuters) - Police fired plastic bullets into a crowd of Northern Ireland Protestant demonstrators yesterday while struggling to control a sectarian parade.

It was the most violent clash involving Protestants since guerrilla cease-fires were announced in late 1994, and the first time in years that plastic bullets had been fired.

The Pro-British Protestants had been stopped by police from marching across a bridge into a Belfast Catholic neighborhood.

After an eight-hour standoff, riot police were brought in to push back angry demonstrators, who had gathered on the Protestant

side of the Ormeau Road bridge. The marchers threw bottles, stones and, later, gas bombs at the police, who crouched under plastic riot shields and took shelter behind grey armored Landrovers. Then police fired back with plastic bullets.

The mile-long Ormeau Road, peaceful for more than 18 months, turned into a battleground.

Rioters broke into a tire depot and rolled tires towards police, who swarmed through a nearby park to gain high ground.

It was not immediately clear how many people were hurt, but one police spokesman said injured officers were "walking wounded." Several civilians were seen being

led away, blood streaming down their faces.

The day had started out fairly peacefully when Protestant "Apprentice Boys" tried to start the province's annual "marching season" with a parade accompanied by flutes and drums.

They were stopped by police who told them crossing into the Catholic area might spark trouble.

The Protestants, members of exclusive fraternities who annually celebrate their Britishness in province-wide processions, said the police were trying to appease Catholics opposed to British rule.

Catholics living in the Ormeau Road have in the past protested

against the marches, which they see as deliberate triumphalist provocation. The marchers denied this.

"We are here to protest against what is a blatant denial of civil and religious liberty," Sandy Geddis, one of the marchers, told reporters. "We carry no banners nor flags, except the crimson flag of our association... so that we are not accused of acts of provocation."

Northern Ireland's three-month marching season is always accompanied by increased sectarian tension, which puts new strains on efforts to end 25 years of guerrilla strife.

Catholics who support unifica-

tion with Ireland held parades on both sides of the Irish border to commemorate the IRA's 1916 Easter Rising against British rule, but on a smaller scale.

Last year's parades were held in a fragile peace during matching truces called by the Irish Republican Army and pro-British Protestant guerrillas.

But early optimism about fast political progress was soon dissipated and the IRA resumed its bombing campaign in London in February because its Sinn Fein political arm was refused a seat in peace talks. Three people have died in the latest series of attacks in the British capital, including a bomber.

Rebel offensive in Colombia kills 19

BOGOTA (AP) - Guerrillas launched a two-day offensive yesterday, attacking bridges, passenger buses, oil pipelines and police stations. At least 19 people were killed.

Public transportation was suspended in scattered areas after the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia called a 48-hour nationwide armed strike.

Rebel attacks are routine in Colombia, where thousands of insurgents have been operating for decades. They easily disrupt law and order in many rural areas with assaults on small towns, but pose no real threat to the government.

The worst attacks occurred in Cucuta, on the border with Venezuela, where three police, three rebels, a soldier and a civilian were killed in dynamite attacks and shootouts, police Col. Laureano Villamizar said.

Guerrillas killed four peasants in the southern state of Tolima,

and a policeman and three rebels died in the northwest city of Medellin, police said. At least nine buses were set on fire in Medellin and the southwest city of Cali.

Three people died while removing explosives placed on a bridge in the northern state of Cesar, police said.

Rebels blew up parts of two oil pipelines and scattered nails in the streets of at least two cities to deter travel.

Leaflets issued by the rebels, who say they are fighting for Colombia's poor, demand "radical changes" in the government. Guerrilla groups have complained they cannot talk peace with President Ernesto Samper, who has lost credibility amid charges he won office with drug money.

The government, however, dismisses the rebels as thugs who lost their ideology with the end of the Cold War and are now full-time kidnapers and extortionists.

Thousands flee as fighting rages in Liberian capital

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - Clashes yesterday between government troops and supporters of a rebel leader drove tens of thousands of terrified people to seek refuge at the US Embassy and other diplomatic compounds.

The fighting that broke out in Monrovia on Saturday has been the worst in three years and has shut down the only international airport. Tens of thousands of people have fled the seaside capital as a tenuous cease-fire in Liberia's six-year civil war seems headed for collapse.

"It's getting worse," Dudley Sims, a spokesman for the US Embassy, said by telephone. "We thought that it had calmed down... but now all of a sudden there has been a lot of sporadic violence and shooting all over the place."

Sims said a US military team from Europe was scheduled to arrive in the capital yesterday to determine whether some 470 Americans should be evacuated from the West African nation. Many of them are embassy staff and their dependents.

In Washington, White House press secretary Mike McCurry called the fighting "a direct threat" to the peace process in Liberia.

Yugoslavia, Macedonia sign normalization treaty

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Yugoslavia and its former republic of Macedonia signed a treaty yesterday to normalize relations, a pact expected to ease international isolation of Belgrade imposed for its role in Bosnia's war.

Germany said the signing removed the last political obstacle to European Union recognition of rump Yugoslavia, now composed only of Serbia and Montenegro.

The pact was signed by foreign ministers Milan Milutinovic of federal Yugoslavia and Ljubomir Frckovski of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), as it is formally registered in the United Nations.

Macedonia, the first ex-Yugoslav republic to restore ties with Belgrade, seceded along with Croatia and Slovenia from the Serbian-dominated Yugoslav federation in 1991 and Bosnia followed a year later.

Macedonia's move to independence remained peaceful despite a restive Albanian minority seeking more rights. A small UN peacekeeping unit that deployed in Macedonia in 1992 has helped keep a lid on intercommunal tensions.

Independence in Croatia, Slovenia and Bosnia triggered wars with the Yugoslav army. Slovenia's conflict lasted only a week while wars involving pro-Yugoslav minority Serbs in Croatia and Bosnia ended last year, but all three republics have yet to forge diplomatic ties with rump Yugoslavia.

US jet fighters to arrive in Jordan on Friday

AMMAN (AP) - US Air Force jet fighters will arrive in Jordan on Friday at the start of a temporary deployment to fly patrols over southern Iraq, a cabinet official said yesterday.

Information Minister Marwan Moushshar said US military support personnel have already arrived in the kingdom ahead of the 30 warplanes and four tanker aircraft whose deployment in Jordan was expected to last two months.

The Pentagon said March 7 that


it was dispatching the air force fighters to be based in Jordan until mid-June while the US Navy carrier group usually deployed in the Gulf is absent.

Jet fighters from the carrier group are part of the US Air contingent in the region which fly patrols over southern Iraq to enforce a "no-fly zone."



The planned US deployment to Jordan would be the first time US warplanes involved in air patrols over Iraq will use Jordanian bases.

Jordan has said it would not take part in the patrols over Iraq, but that the Americans will help train the Jordanian air force to fly F-16s jet fighters, of which the kingdom expects to take delivery of in 28 months.

Sources said the US Force will begin patrolling southern Iraq on Saturday and some 1,000-strong US force will be stationed in a military camp in the eastern city of Azraq, 95 kilometers away from Amman.



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Peres's invidious comparison

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres seems to have decided to follow a campaign strategy which avers that a Likud victory is a victory for Hamas and the Teheran ayatollahs. What the electorate is asked to believe is that the Likud, like Iran and its proteges, wants the collapse of the peace process. Ergo, a vote for the Likud is a vote for Israel's most implacable enemies. Peres said as much at a Labor Party meeting earlier this week, in a *Jerusalem Post* interview published today, and on various other occasions.

To say that this line is indecent and demagogic is merely to touch the surface of the problem. Implying that the Likud does not want peace is equivalent to the charge that Labor wants the destruction of Israel. Both are totally unacceptable libels, which do not belong even in the most heated campaign rhetoric.

But what may be more worrisome is Peres's inability to distinguish between peace and the Oslo agreements. Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and Hizbullah are not opposed to the Oslo process. They are openly and overtly supportive of what

it has wrought: Israel's withdrawal from what they consider "occupied territory." They would like to see a faster and more complete withdrawal, and - above all - they want to take credit for it. They believe the "armed struggle" has forced Israel to withdraw, and they are convinced that only through armed action can Israel be forced to make more meaningful concessions.

Unlike these Islamic forces, Arafat believes that Israel can be made to surrender territory more effectively through negotiations. But there is no difference between their perception of the final goal, the dismantling of Israel, and his. He has made it clear in virtually every utterance he has made before Arab audiences.

To liken the differences between Arafat and the Islamists to the dispute between Labor and the Likud is not only a political obscenity. It betrays an unfortunate inability to understand the dynamics of Palestinian aspirations. And it is this inability on Peres's part, rather than his odious campaign tactics, which should worry the voters most.

Childish but dangerous game

NORTH Korea's gray Orwellian leaders have never been credited with much imagination, but their attempt this week to emulate China's bullying of Taiwan at election time marks a new level of childishness in international diplomacy.

Probably no one outside the region other than experts would have been aware that South Korea has elections this week and that President Bill Clinton will be visiting Seoul the following week. North Korea's ludicrous game of sending soldiers to march in and out of the demilitarized zone, and its decision to stop honoring the 43-year-old Korean armistice agreement, has shunted both routine events in the South into the headlines while winning attention for the ill-tempered, dangerous child up north.

The North Koreans follow the old Stalinist principle that any international agreement is useful only as long as it remains too risky to tear it up. Neither international law nor morality have any bearing on such accords. The tiresome tyrants in Pyongyang must think the world has forgotten their unilateral decision to pull out of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, which sparked the previous international crisis over the Korean peninsula last year. It certainly has not forgotten that the North Koreans' petulance on the issue led to the United States, South Korea, and Japan setting up a consortium to raise \$4 billion to replace North Korea's dangerous nuclear reactors with new models.

The new and contrived agitation over the demilitarized zone follows so transparently on China's show of force against Taiwan as to be laughable. The real joke is that, while China is a mighty and legitimate state that must be handled seriously, North Korea is nothing more than a beggar turned mugger. In an individual, such attempts to exact money and favors from the hard-working world around it would be called extortion.

Some Korea-watchers think North Korea's irrational behavior is a symptom of a dying regime. It can no longer keep its people in a vacuum, ignorant of the rich and successful South that taunts "the workers' paradise" - which has a medieval economy, rampant famine, and abject poverty to show for the 50 years of glorious marching alongside heroic great leaders.

The regime may be near its end, but a wounded hyena is dangerous, and a suicidal rampage across the border by North Korea's million-strong army is not an impossibility. Given the state of the North's ancient armaments and its

troops' miserable condition, such a military adventure would be doomed to failure. But it would nonetheless be a serious new explosion of war in an unstable region.

Diplomatic crisis managers cannot treat North Korea as a state with a coherent government or policy. When Pyongyang marches 150 troops in and out of the demilitarized zone to carry out theatrical defense maneuvers, it threatens no one on the southern side. But it is a serious violation of the very touchy 1953 armistice that halted the Korean War, and it raises acute tensions. While South Koreans know they and the Americans would humiliate and dismantle the North in a conventional war, they have good reason to fear the victory would be politically and economically Pyrrhic when the South came to foot the bill for salvaging the ruins of the communist state.

Insofar as there is any planned policy behind the North's latest unilateral abrogation of an agreement, it is probably directed at attracting more attention from Washington. It is also providing a useful circus to divert the hungry masses at home. Pyongyang has long hinted it wants to scrap the sterile armistice, which froze the war but left it unresolved, and replace it with a bilateral peace treaty with the United States. A treaty would bring suffocating North Korea some financial oxygen. North Korea's nominal leader Kim Jong-il has failed to establish his authority, particularly with the military, and the dangerous game on the border may merely reflect a dangerous power struggle in Pyongyang.

If this brinkmanship is meant to make such points to President Clinton or throw South Korea's election into disarray, the North is making a serious mistake and fails to understand even the most basic elements of how democratic systems work. Whatever unrealistic hope the North might have of any president abandoning Washington's 50-year-old support for South Korea, it can forget it in the case of Clinton, and doubly so in election year.

North Korea's success with the nuclear blackmail, which won it a golden handout, may have led its leaders to assume a similar ploy with a threat of war might work again. While Pyongyang is busy trying to score irrelevant points off its southern enemy, it should take note of the point Clinton made during the Taiwan crisis, when he did not hesitate to send in the full might of the Pacific Fleet to protect a less important ally than Seoul against a more formidable bully than North Korea.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TRAFFIC FATALITIES

Sir, - I wish to correct the erroneous statement of Minister of Transport Israel Kessar at Beit Hanassi about traffic fatalities, as reported in your edition of March 12. Not for the first time the road safety advisers of both the minister and the president have deliberately tried to hoodwink them and the general public, by misinformation.

It is patently dishonest to compare the number of road deaths to the number of population. The correct comparison applied by responsible bodies all over the world is the number of deaths to vehicle kilometers driven. For example the number of people killed over every billion ve-

hicle kilometers driven in 1994 is 23 for Germany, 20 for Israel, 12 for the US and 11 for the UK, the latter two countries having a drink-and-drive problem. The latest figures published by the International Road Federation in Geneva show that Israel and Germany head the list of deaths for every 100 million vehicle kilometers.

It is said that comparisons are odious, but if they are to be used to illustrate a point, at least let them be honest ones.

IVAN POPE,
National Chairman,
Metuna
Netanya.

LIBERAL POLICY

Sir, - Refreshing, isn't it, that Teddy and Amos Kollek have been given space in your newspaper, despite their leftist views. Would that other Israeli newspapers, TV and radio would afford more than one political opinion to be aired.

What is important here is that Teddy Kollek acknowledges his satisfaction that you allow his views to

be expressed ("Why I write for the Post," March 22). Perhaps now the rest of the Israeli media (barring Channel 7) will stop their one-sided Soviet-style news coverage and act more democratically. The public deserves it.

JOYCE SIMSON
Stammore, Middx.

LABOR'S CANDIDATES

Sir, - I was interested in Yosef Goell's comment in his column of March 27 ("After all the excitement") that "nearly no men or women of moral stature, with impressive records of accomplishment, the kind we should be attracted to serve as MKs, will agree to debate themselves and waste their time by running in primaries."

I have just read or reread the list of Labor's successful candidates. Obviously not all are known to me, but time after time I came across names of people who have done remarkable work nationally or locally; people whose leadership ability was tested and proven; people who rose to the occasion as required.

Perhaps Mr. Goell is suffering from the same problem that many have: People often seem greater in hindsight but not in the present.

Labor's list seems to be full of fine leaders who have a good grasp of the past, live in the present and have a vision for the future.

MIRIAM ZUCKERMAN
Jerusalem.



The old opposition

ABBA EBAN

THE parliamentary system is the only regime in which opposition to the government is an integral part of the governmental system itself. The least debt that we owe to the Israeli opposition is to understand what it says. This would help us avoid the false notion that the two major political parties favor similar solutions for the national dilemmas.

The truth is that there are few parliamentary countries in the world in which the two largest parties are as distant from each other on fundamental issues as the Likud is from Labor.

Some writers are impressed by the frequency with which Binyamin Netanyahu now speaks of "peace." They would be less impressed if they would read the report in *Ha'arets* (March 29) of the Likud leader's statement to the Habad movement.

This is what Netanyahu said: "A Likud government will establish more and more settlements in the territories from which Israeli forces have withdrawn."

"The first thing that we shall do will be to restore to our hands the exclusive responsibility for the security of the country and of its inhabitants. The IDF will be the only ruler with full freedom to act anywhere in every place."

When asked if this policy would bring about the explosion of the peace agreement, Netanyahu replied: "What peace agreement are you talking about? Where does it exist?" He added "I will not shake Arafat's hand. I shall make this clear in advance."

The peace process which Netanyahu describes airily as nonexistent is the one espoused by the Knesset, the United States, the European Union, Russia, China, Japan, India and all the

principal countries of what was once known as the Third World and also by Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Djibouti, several Gulf states as well as by the Vatican and by the overwhelming majority of UN members.

THE CURRENT peace process embodies the most massive international

It is not possible to shake hands with a clenched fist

national and regional consensus that has ever taken root in the Middle East. Netanyahu speaks and acts as though Israel has had no success in securing respect for Israel's basic rights in this region.

It is not possible to shake hands with a clenched fist and Israel does not have to agonize about the absence of peace during the years when the "Arab" world refused even the most minimal acknowledgment of Israel's sovereign rights. But this reasoning expired with the Declaration of Principles of 1993 which not only Israel, but the entire world community, regarded as a significant innovation in Arab and Israeli attitudes.

Three years later the peace process is more popular with Israelis than its repeal could possibly be. This, more than anything else explains the difficulties of the Likud in its current encounter with Israeli public opinion.

Netanyahu's puritanical refusal to meet Arafat falls neatly into place. The meeting of "odd couples" has been the most signifi-

cant innovation in the diplomacy of the present age. Mandaia and De Klerk, Rabin and Arafat, the British government and the IRA, Israel and the Vatican, the Balkan governments elaborating a peace agreement in Dayton, Ohio, Peres and Arab Gulf states have all sent a signal that diplomacy, so often rebuffed for traditionalism, is now liberating itself from entrenched routines. Negotiation has ceased to be a mere option and is now recognized as an overriding international duty.

When asked by a presumably stunned reporter whether "the IDF will return to rule all the places from which it has withdrawn," Netanyahu is quoted as saying: "Certainly! We shall not limit ourselves in any way. In order to defend the lives of Jews we shall give the IDF total control." Netanyahu does not give place in his vocabulary to the "lives of all Israeli citizens."

It is not clear which other countries would go along with Netanyahu's "promise" to multiply Israeli settlements and to assert "total" exercise of Israeli military rule in the tenuously "autonomous" areas. The United States? Russia? Jordan? Egypt? The European Union?

Surely not Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Djibouti, Oman and Qatar and other Arab and Moslem candidates for a new regional order.

Netanyahu's remarks were published when Prime Minister Peres was being honored by two of the Arab Gulf states. The New Middle East is not yet a reality, but some of the moods and attitudes of the Old Middle East are beginning to recede from memory.

The writer is a former foreign minister.

No exodus for these slaves

JEFF JACOBY

I have heard their groans and sighs and seen their tears," grieved Harriet Tubman "and I would give every drop of blood in my veins to free them."

How the great abolitionist heroine of the 19th century would weep to learn that at the threshold of the 21st century, black chattel slavery still exists in this world. More than weep; Harriet Tubman's very heart would crack if she knew that almost no one, not even the descendants of the American slaves for whose emancipation she fought so desperately to care.

Chattel slavery - the buying and selling of human beings - ended in the West in the 19th century. In the East, especially in the Arab-dominated nations of Sudan and Mauritania, slavery abounds. Tens, maybe hundreds of thousands of black Africans have been captured by government troops and freelance slavers and carried off into bondage. Often they are sold openly in "cattle markets," sometimes to domestic owners, sometimes to buyers from Chad, Libya and the Persian Gulf states.

These people are slaves in every grim sense of the word. They are owned outright by their Arab Moslem masters. Many are branded like cattle, forcibly converted to Islam, lashed if they resist, tortured if they attempt escape. They are put to work as household servants or at hard labor in the fields. Girls and women are routinely raped. Kidnapped boys as young as 15 have been impressed into the Sudanese army to be used as cannon fodder in Khartoum's "holy war" against the black Africans of southern Sudan and as blood banks for older soldiers.

Chattel slavery in Sudan and Mauritania has been conclusively and repeatedly documented by

eyewitnesses, human rights investigators, the United Nations, Sudanese and Mauritanian defectors, and a handful of dogged journalists. Yet most Americans know nothing about it. Why? To end apartheid in South Africa activists the world over kept up an unrelenting campaign of pressure against the former government in Pretoria: condemnation, vigils,

sanctions, divestment, boycotts, marches, protests. Where is the campaign to free Africa's slaves? "Every schoolchild in America knows that women have been raped in Bosnia," says Charles Jacobs, director of the Boston-based American Anti-Slavery Group. "Everyone knows the whales have to be saved. But no one seems to realize you can buy a black woman as a slave for as little as \$15 in Khartoum."

Jacobs, a management consultant by profession, became a latter-day abolitionist in 1992 after an unsettling conversation with a client who worked out of Senegal.

"I had heard these rumors about slavery in the Arab world. I asked him, 'Can it be true?' He said, 'Sure it's true; you want to buy one?'"

TOGETHER WITH Mohammed Athie, an exiled Mauritanian diplomat, and David Chand, a black Christian from southern

Sudan, Jacobs has spent three-and-a-half years trying to shine a light on the horrors of slavery in North Africa. Almost everywhere they have turned - the eminent human-rights agencies, the women's groups, the church councils, the civil rights coalitions - they have encountered the same response: Yes, we know about the slaves. No, we're not prepared to fight for their freedom.

"For people who... have been at the forefront of the anti-apartheid movement," bewails Athie, "I seriously cannot understand how they can turn their backs on this... I cannot believe people do not want to take action."

The new abolitionist movement has few heroes. In most of America's prestige press, in the boardrooms of the great civil rights organizations, in the offices of famous black leaders, in the corridors of the State Department, one of the most bitter evils of our time evokes only a cowardly silence. Jesse Jackson cannot get involved in fighting slavery, one of his aides told Jacobs, because he "is busy with affirmative action." The NAACP hasn't acted. Trans-Africa hasn't acted. The Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, US Rep. Don Payne of New Jersey, recently dismissed the slave trade as a "sub, sub issue."

Only with aching slowness is this blackout being lifted. In May 1995, Jacobs convened an abolitionist congress in Harlem. Last month, a congressional subcommittee held a first-ever hearing on slavery in North Africa. But the pace of progress is microscopic. And all the while tens of thousands of human beings are bleeding and dying in their chains.

Courtesy of The Boston Globe.

Make the punishment fit the crime

SOLLY HARRIS

THE Palestinian Authority, Egypt and other Arab countries have been insistent in condemning the closure Israel has placed on the territories as a wrongful collective punishment and a "policy of starvation."

The closure undoubtedly causes hardship and is not entirely selective. But we Israelis tend to fight shy of accepting our retaliatory defensive measures as being labeled collective punishment.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, in an interview in Cairo last week, is quoted as having said: "I believe the closure is necessary for security reasons and it should continue as long as there are security reasons which justify it..." He denied that it is collective punishment, as the Palestinians and human rights groups have charged." (*The Jerusalem Post*, April 5).

We should not fight shy of acknowledging that while the closure is motivated by security reasons, to the extent that it inevitably hurts the entire Palestinian population, it is a collective punishment. However, we should simultaneously stress that it is collective punishment for collective responsibility.

For years we have been told by the PLO and the Arab League that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinian people. Those who preach terror against Israel and recruit suicide bombers are Palestinians. Consequently, the PLO is responsible for their conduct and has to bear the consequences.

It is a situation analogous to that of Kach supporters and other would-be Goldsteins who threaten and perpetrate acts of violence against Arabs. In such cases, the demand for punishment and containment is leveled not against these groups and individuals, but against the Israeli government, and rightly so.

IN LIKE manner, we are entitled to demand that the Palestinian Authority, takes all the necessary steps to confront and contain their Goldsteins.

It is a collective punishment for collective responsibility

Admittedly, the challenge which Arafat and the PA have to face is on a far vaster scale than ours. Nonetheless, they have to meet it. Without it, the equation of "land for peace" is nullified.

We have the land and are committed to give it to them - a commitment which we have already seriously begun to implement, despite its many inherent dangers. They have to give us peace, whatever it takes on their part to ensure it.

They have to make sure that we are able to board a bus, or go shopping in downtown Tel Aviv or any other place in our country without fear and anxiety in our hearts. To love us is not part of the bargain, but to let us live in peace is.

If this bargain is breached, then their society as a whole is responsible and as such must bear the consequences. The deal is collective in both dimensions: responsibility and punishment.

Sooner or later the closure will be removed, in full or in part. To show the extent to which the responsibility for ensuring our freedom from terror falls on them, the PA should be the body which decides which Palestinians are allowed into Israel, subject of course to our veto. They know, or should know, much more about the members of their population than we do.

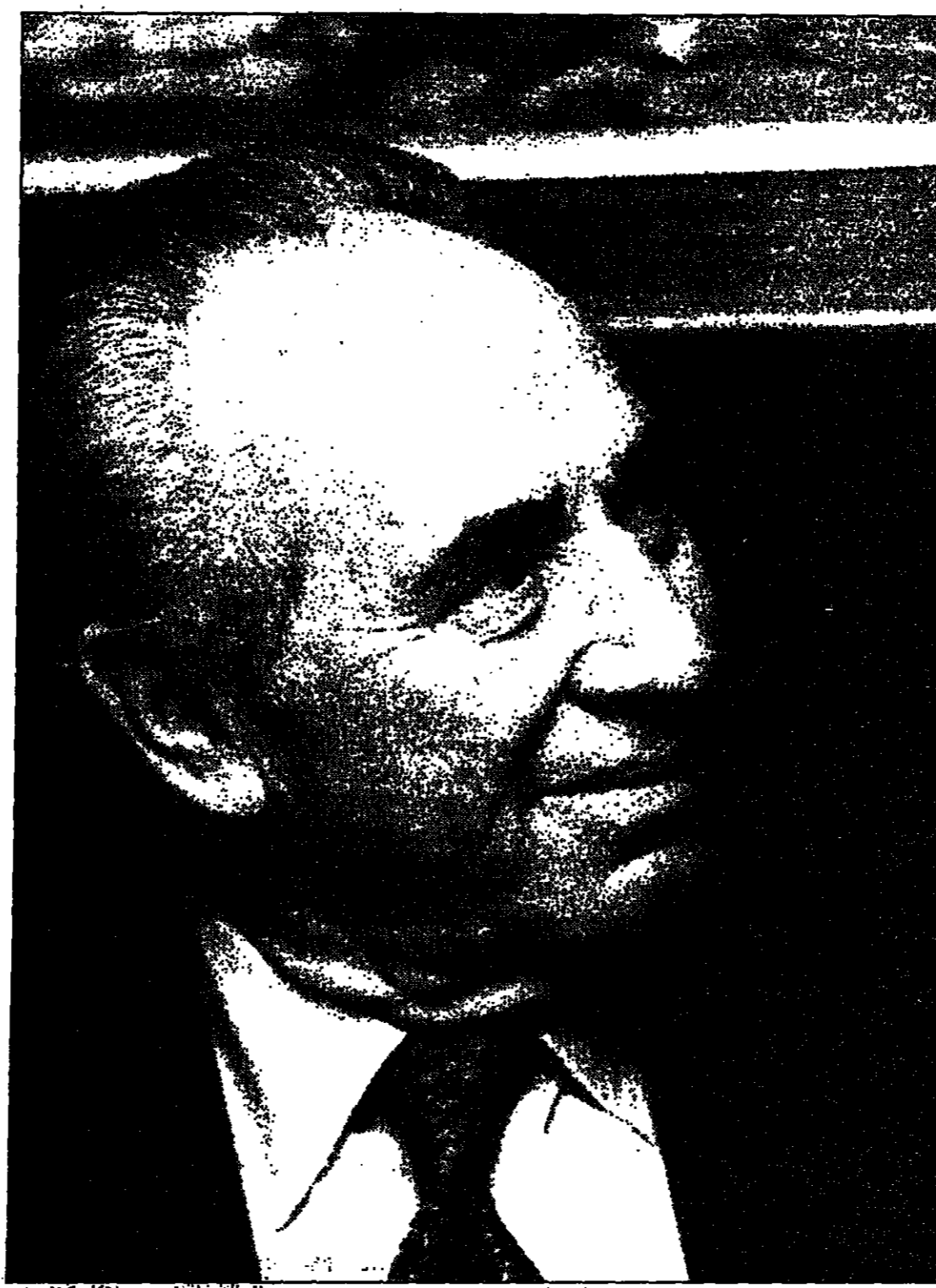
This would not absolve the PA from responsibility for those who slip through the net for they have to root out those who encourage and plan terror against us, whatever it takes. And it does not absolve us, on our side, from being on constant guard and from taking preventive measures.

So let us not be so defensive and apologetic when the accusing finger of collective punishment is pointed at us. Let us proclaim loudly and clearly that as long as the Palestinians do not fulfill their collective responsibility, they have to face the prospect of "collective punishment" which, unfortunately, and much to our dislike, affects their entire society.

The writer is a freelancer.

Arafat must make peace with himself - Peres

Arafat's recent actions, satellite dishes in Syria and even a history of broken election promises give Shimon Peres cause for optimism. David Makovsky interviewed the premier this week



I think there's a great opportunity to save us from unnecessary wars. This is what I'm doing. (Brian Henders)

The Palestinians
Given your declaration that there will be a referendum on final-status talks with the Palestinians, and another referendum on the conclusion of negotiations with the Syrians, what exactly will the forthcoming election decide?

I don't know any party platform that has been realized. A party platform [represents] negotiations with ourselves, and then we are extremely generous to ourselves. When it comes down to earth, it is useless. [In the 1977 Likud platform], Begin said he would keep Sinai; nothing is left from the Sinai. In the same Likud platform there was nothing about autonomy.

When we came up with "Gaza and Jericho First" or Oslo B, there was nothing like it [in the 1992 Labor platform]. So people should not be worried. I am coming to the people and saying: Give me a mandate to negotiate permanent agreements. Clearly, I don't want to divide the people.

If platforms are useless, why bother with them?

We have to have principles. For example, we should keep Jerusalem united. The Jordan [River] will be the defense line.

What does "defense line" mean? That the IDF will retain an armed presence there, or that no foreign army should cross it?

It means no foreign army should be on the [west] side of the Jordan.

We shall not return to the '67

I am judging by deeds, and even his speeches have undergone a change. Let's face it - they are not what they used to be.

You have said "It does not matter what [Arafat] says. Intentions are what is important; reality is more important." Is that still your view?

Yes, sure.

If you become convinced that Arafat is not serious in confronting Hamas, don't you think the public deserves a sense of what you will do, if elected, in the event that the peace process unravels?

I don't want to commit myself unnecessarily - it does not depend upon a person. We are in a new age. Nobody can turn his back on history. It is nonsense. We are in a transitional period. The old Middle East has not yet disappeared completely and the new Middle East has not fully arrived. We are in the middle of it, so we still suffer from the past, and we still cannot see the fruits of the future. It is a transition. It does not depend upon any person, because there is no hope for wars and winning wars. If you want to be strong and rich, grow economically, don't grow militarily.

People say [to leaders]: "You go to make wars, occasionally for your own prestige. What about us? Our stomachs are empty, our children are ignorant. We are losing the competition in the world." In the world, at the times of competition, you have to compete, you cannot fight. There are rules

need democracy for peace.

Visiting Damascus one is struck by the increasing number of satellite dishes on the rooftops. Every dish is a hope.

Do you see this maybe as analogous to Eastern Europe in the early '80s when it is said that television presaged the end of the Cold War because Eastern Europeans became more aware of what people in the West had and what they lacked?

In Europe, the silver curtain of television was stronger than the Iron Curtain... The question I ask everyone [in the Middle East] is: If the Far East can change itself, why can't we? Take Thailand, take Indonesia, and Korea.

I heard that in a meeting you had in Buenos Aires with Argentinian President Menem (who is of Syrian extraction and who visited Syria), he said Assad was not as shrewd as people give him credit for and that he has brought little to his people.

This is right.

The Egyptians have made their separate peace with Israel. The Palestinians have moved ahead without Syria by going to Oslo. The Jordanians have made their own peace with Israel, and now the Gulf States and some North African Arab states are also moving ahead with Israel without him. What does he have to show?

You can write it.

You don't want to comment?

No. Why should I comment if I have to negotiate with him?

There is still an effort, not an achievement. The Americans are trying very seriously to do so... I saw that some European countries have now extended credit to Iran, which is a scandal.

Basically, European policy toward Iran is, in your view, motivated solely by money?

No, its not just money, but rather a refusal to face critical situations and [instead] taking a more accommodating look at things.

Elections

According to reports, you went to Rabbi Ovadia Yosef and said Shas voters shouldn't vote in the direct election of the prime minister. It seems that the Labor Party position is to discourage haredim while encouraging Israeli Arabs to vote in this election. Is it true? If so, what kind of message does this send in a democratic sense?

First, I never said it. I did not come to negotiate. I came to congratulate him on Passover and that's it. Secondly, the religious have to decide if they are on the side of peace or not. We stand for peace and security. And the same goes for the Arabs. They have to decide, they are part and parcel of the Israeli citizenship. [Just as I] wouldn't discriminate against anyone because they are religious, I would not discriminate against anyone because he is an Arab. We call on the whole population to participate in the election.

I'm the best person to serve the young generation...I'm carrying a message, not an ambition

frontiers and there will be a referendum.

Do you think that if the Likud is elected, it will - either by design or otherwise - return to Gaza or the West Bank cities?

The point is that the Likud, because of the composition of its parties - two formal factions, Tsomet and Geshet, and an informal faction of [the settlement movement] Yesha - will have to renew the settlement policy in the West Bank. This in my judgment will mean the end of peace and the end of a hope for peace. I have said it many times; I am saying it again. From eggs, you can make omelets, but from omelets, you cannot make eggs. They are going to "omelet" the whole West Bank beyond repair. And then we shall become a binational state.

The Likud sees in the autonomy a permanent solution, and we see in the autonomy a step towards a permanent solution.

You used to say: "We will fight terrorists as if there is no peace, and we will go ahead with peace as if there is no terror." Now it seems that you have changed this thinking, as you are now making further steps in the peace process conditional on the fighting against terror. In fact, you are not going ahead with a pullback from Hebron until Mohammed Deif and others Hamas fugitives are arrested.

I intend to realize all our promises. But I cannot separate dates and events. We have demanded from the Palestinian Authority that it takes the necessary measures against Hamas. Only now are they beginning to take them, and I believe they will continue. Hebron is basically a Hamas city, and I want to make sure that they are not handing it over to Hamas. That is legitimate and legal. It is my responsibility and I shall do it.

Do you expect Hebron to be transferred before the elections?

I don't want to commit myself.

dismantling.

And what about the idea of settlement blocs as a part of a final arrangement?

When you negotiate, there are many suggestions, and I don't have to either exclude or monopolize one suggestion. Every suggestion that got publicity before time is a dead suggestion. It is like opening a film in daylight.

You repeatedly say that a Palestinian confederation with

the other one. And we have to arrange that the three angles will be composed in a complementary manner.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Yossi Beilin and Arafat deputy Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) were working on a final status outline which people involved in the negotiations say would enable about 100,000 settlers to remain under Israeli sovereignty. What

On the Jordan Rift Valley and other issues, there are feasibility studies. It takes time. Planning takes time as well. But it is on the planning board and it will be realized - the same [applies to] the industrial park.

General Security Services

Perhaps one of the main conclusions of the Shamgar Commission is that the General Security Service needs greater

Hebron is basically a Hamas city, and I want to make sure that the Palestinian Authority does not hand it over to Hamas

Jordan is far preferable to a Palestinian state. Can you elaborate on what you mean by confederation?

I mean first of all that this will enable us to secure the demilitarization of all the territories [from which Israel withdraws] in the future. There would be one army - the Jordanian-Palestinian army. It also means preventing a conflict between the Jordanians and the Palestinians.

It would not preclude a border inside the West Bank? It does not preclude, it does not monopolize.

It seems that Israel's relations with Jordan and the Palestinians are better than their relations with each other. Is this not a dangerous situation?

No. Wherever you can improve, you improve. Eventually we shall have to live together in a triangle. Otherwise every angle will need

supervision than one man, the prime minister, has time to provide? Perhaps what is needed is either greater parliamentary supervision or an interministerial panel?

I appointed an excellent man as its head [Maj.-Gen. Ami Ayalon]. I trust him completely and fully. When it comes to secrets, whenever you have a committee, you are not sure that the secrets will remain secrets.

Syria

To what extent do you feel that peace is too great a price for Syria because liberalization could bring about Assad's downfall?

I think nobody is left with a choice. All the non-liberal forces cannot feed the nation. You need democracy for the economy. you

The religious have to decide if they are on the side of peace or not...The same goes for the Arabs

Would you like to see a deal with Syria by November, when Secretary of State Warren Christopher is, by his own admission, due to retire?

If possible, yes.

Are you optimistic, even though talks have essentially stopped for now?

I sent a message with the Americans to Assad, Assad says he wants peace in '96. I said if we want a deal in '96, we have to fly high and fast, not low and slow. This means that we have to negotiate differently. We have to raise the level of negotiations to the top leadership of the countries... I got a reply [from Assad via the Americans, saying]: "Yes, we can meet but I can't say the date..." I want to see what is the pace of his movement.

Do you preclude the June 4, 1967, borders with the Syrians?

Yes, but I don't want to conduct negotiations this way.

Lebanon

Yitzhak Rabin said in his last interview before his tragic death: "Until there's a peace deal with Syria, Israeli soldiers will continue to be killed in southern Lebanon. Do you agree with that?"

I don't know.

Maybe there's a need for a unilateral withdrawal from the security zone?

It is impossible. It will worsen the situation. In Lebanon, you have two forces. One force holds the microphone - that's the government; the other force holds the rifle - this is the Hizbullah. So what is the sense of making an agreement with the microphone?

So you think if Israel were to withdraw, there would be renewed infiltrations into Israel?

Yes.

Iran

Do think Iran is planning terror attacks to unseat you?

Not to unseat me as a person. But they want to unseat a government of peace because they want to unseat peace.

Can you divulge one example?

No.

Has the US strategy of dual containment of Iran failed because Europeans have not truly joined in?

Israel and the Diaspora

You said recently that "Israelis need more Yiddishkeit, and Diaspora Jews need more Hebrew." Do you want to enrich the Jewish curriculum in Israeli schools? What will be the nature of a new partnership between Israel and the Diaspora in a post-peace Israel?

First, we have to set a new agenda for the coming 50 to 100 years of Jewish life. The first agenda, which will reach its 100th anniversary next year, is completely fulfilled, better than Herzl ever dreamed. Now we need a new dream. The new dream is once we have established our territorial concentration, we have to build our spiritual center. On the agenda will be to gather whatever is Jewish - historically, universally, and intellectually - and bring it to Israel. So the agenda will be to build a spiritual center for a Jewish future in Jerusalem, in Israel.

Second, if until now Israel was an answer to Jewish tragedies and the Holocaust, Israel must become an attraction for inviting the Jewish youth to live here or with us wherever they are. For that reason, the main answer to the question of "Who is a Jew?" is not if your parents were Jewish, but if your children will be Jewish. For that reason, education will become the major instrument of the relations between the Diaspora and us.

We have to attract not just material support, but Jewish intellectual talents wherever they are. Israel went against the tide and succeeded for the sole reason that we are a believing nation, because our moral fiber exceeded our imperial strategies, so to speak. This is what we have to do for the future.

and regulations and that's stronger than everything that one can say. A person can postpone and deviate. But the march of time is like the march of a river. The fish can hardly change that.

Until the closure of the territories, Arafat did not do what he is doing today against Hamas. This suggests to some people that Arafat only does the right thing when he is under massive pressure. Do you agree?

He is beginning to understand, to reach the conclusion that Hamas wants to topple [the Palestinian Authority].

How does the Israeli public know that someone caught by the PA today won't be released tomorrow?

The best guarantee is to clarify that this is in Arafat's interest. I think the Palestinian Authority is itself surprised by the depth of the Hamas underground, by the viciousness of their policies.

ISRAEL has been blowing up homes and deporting Palestinians now for over 25 years but it has not seemed to serve as a deterrent. Why should Israel pursue this policy?

We have learned from terrorists who were supposed to commit suicide acts; they said that the only thing that would prevent them is if their families would be affected. So, we are warning people: If you should commit suicide, [you can't] be sure your home will remain intact, and don't be sure that all the members of your family will remain here. That's the only preventive matter we have learned from investigating this.

Do you still expect to deport some people?

If there will be a need for it, yes.

What would be Israel's minimal conditions regarding the PLO changing its covenant?

To annul those articles that call for the destruction of Israel.

What if it mentions Palestinian aspirations for Jerusalem or the right of return?

You asked me what is the minimum - I said the minimum.

You think it will be changed before the elections?

They are committed.

You now speak in terms of separation of Jews and Palestinians. In the past, you said it was a bad idea. What led you to change your mind?

I distinguish between an economic [and political] separation, which I was always against and I am still against. But otherwise if the alternative is a binational state, I will support each nation having its own entity. Clearly, that is the meaning of separation. Not to make an omelet.

But the Shahaal Commission's recommendations for separation last year were ignored?

[There are differences.] The fence will only be 12km., not the whole line. There will be other electronic means. There will be zones of security, necessary for security arrangements.

Should the separation reflect Israel's envisioned territorial partition of the West Bank?

No, this will be the result of negotiations.

You are opposed to moving any settlements in any final-status agreement?

I don't think we have to dismantle settlements, I don't think we have to add settlements. That is my position. No adding and no

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, April 9, 1996

El Al suffers 7%-8% drop in reservations

HAIM SHAPIRO

EL AL has experienced a drop of seven to eight percent in reservations, apparently as a result of the recent wave of suicide bombers, company spokeswoman Osnat Lapidot said yesterday.

She said the drop in reservations, for April and May, was reflected in the national airline's entire network and was not in one particular line.

About two-thirds of the decline in flight reservations was from

cancellations by foreign tourists, while one-third was Israelis traveling abroad.

Lapidot said other airlines flying to Israel have experienced a similar decrease in reservations due to cancellations.

She added that although there had been no comprehensive study, the decline probably derived from last-minute decisions to cancel visits to Israel because of the terrorist attacks.

Analysts: Managers should brace for risks of corporate raids

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MANAGERS of publicly-traded Israeli companies should contemplate tactical measures to protect themselves from the risk of hostile takeovers in the future, a US analyst said yesterday.

The warning came following the Scitex-Gilo affair, which has increased local awareness to the possibility of US-style corporate raids taking place here.

Fears of a hostile takeover are expected, according to the analyst, to subject local managers to closer scrutiny from controlling shareholders and induce managers to improve company performance, lest they be personally punished by the markets.

Local market analysts, meanwhile, said the majority of Israeli managers have no reason to fear hostile takeovers, since shareholder control of the companies is very concentrated, making it almost impossible to take over a firm without the owners' consent.

According to Shmuel Gortler, managing director of Clal Finance and Investments, less than 10 percent of the country's public companies are at a potential risk of a hostile takeover.

"Skirmishes between existing shareholders are more common in Israel than hostile takeovers, since in many cases the major shareholders control more than 50% of a company's shares," Gortler said. "The holding of a large proportion of the shares by majority-share holders prevents hostile takeovers."

Gortler, whose company is held by Clal, which is also an interested party in Scitex, refused to discuss specifically the hostile takeover bid for Scitex by American-Israeli entrepreneur David Gilo.

The latter has informed Scitex owners of his intentions to seize control of the Herzliya based high-tech company, despite the decision by the board and principal shareholders to reject his proposal to purchase the company's shares for a total of \$856 million.

Scitex's major shareholders - International Paper Company, PEC Israel Economic Corp., Discount Investment and Clal Electronics Industries - collectively hold some 36% of issued and outstanding Scitex shares.

Dr. Shmuel Goldman, an expert on the local capital market, predicted hostile takeovers "will not become a common phenomenon here over the next decade," since at the moment only a few companies, like Scitex and Teva, are at risk of a takeover of this kind. Many small companies are family-owned, while the larger ones are controlled by a few major investors, usually the large conglomerates, like Clal, IDB and the Bank Hapoalim group, he said.

"Israel is not like the US, where interested parties may control only a small percentage of a company," he said. "Here, the majority of firms are smaller than in the US and concentration of control in them is therefore high," he said. Hostile takeovers, according to Goldman, may become more common "perhaps in a decade or two," after family-owned companies are split up and pass down a generation or so.

Citing an example, Goldman said Elram used to be a family-owned company, which was bequeathed and shortly afterwards was sold by one of the inheritors to Migdal, a subsidiary of Africa Israel.

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Source: Telephone quotes, May 1994

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Chrysler to sell defense, aerospace holdings to Raytheon for \$455 million

CHRYSLER Corp. will sell most of its defense and aerospace holdings for \$455 million to Lexington, Massachusetts-based Raytheon, in a move which further accelerates the process of consolidation in the world defense industry.

The combined annual revenue of the units at stake is \$500m, said Raytheon spokeswoman Elizabeth Allen. However, by the end of 1995 they had accumulated a backlog of more than \$700m.

Chrysler will take \$20m. in cash out of the units prior to their sale, making the overall value of the transaction \$475m. for the Highland Park, Michigan, automobile maker.

Raytheon will acquire two units of the Chrysler Technologies division, including Electrospace Systems Inc. — a Richardson, Texas-based operation that modi-

fies military and commercial aircraft for US and foreign customers.

"The acquisition of Chrysler Technologies is consistent with our successful strategy to remain a top-tier defense contractor, as well as a strong, diversified commercial company," said Dennis Picard, Raytheon's chairman and CEO. "The Chrysler Technologies acquisition solidifies our position in a consolidating defense industry," he said.

Raytheon — which sells defense electronics equipment, appliances and engineering services — had revenues last year of \$11.7 billion. Chrysler's overall sales last year totaled \$51.2b., and its net profits were just over \$2b., a decline of nearly \$1.7b. in comparison with the previous year.

Chrysler has been cutting costs over the past six years, including

the selling of its car rental units, and has maintained its position as the most cost-efficient US car maker. Raytheon's move comes at a time when its competitors are joining forces.

In January, Lockheed Martin Corp. announced plans to acquire most of Loral Corp. for \$9.1b. in a transaction that would reinforce its position as the world's largest defense company.

Earlier this month, Northrop Grumman Corp. agreed to buy Westinghouse Electric Corp.'s electronics unit for \$3b. Raytheon itself paid \$2.3b. in cash last May for Dallas based E-Systems Inc., a maker of spying electronics with annual sales of about \$2b.

During the first four years since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the US defense industry's orders have fallen from \$173b. to \$73b. (Bloomberg)

WORLD BRIEFS

Estonia gets 2.32 billion kroons investment in '95: Foreign direct investment into Estonia in 1995 came to 2.32 billion kroons (around \$211 million), the central bank, the Bank of Estonia, said in its 1995 balance of payments report yesterday. The figure was slightly lower than 1994's 2.79 billion kroons, the bank added.

Estonia, which quit the former Soviet Union in 1991, has one of the highest per capita investment rates for former Communist bloc states with its open economy and bases of economic reforms. The bank figures showed a balance of payments surplus of 1.2 billion kroons in 1995. *Reuters*

Turkey may seek new IMF stand-by accord: Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz's coalition government may resume talks with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a new stand-by accord, economy officials said yesterday. "We will be attending the IMF meeting on April 21-22. There might be some informal talks in the United States between Turkish and IMF officials for a new stand-by arrangement," said a senior economy official, who declined to be named. "But the decision for a new stand-by is completely political and up to the government," he said. The IMF and World Bank hold their spring meeting on April 17-23.

A 1994 stand-by arrangement was effectively shelved in late 1995 when the former coalition government of Tansu Ciller collapsed and Turkey decided to hold early elections on December 24. The IMF had approved a \$740-million stand-by accord for Turkey in July 1994 following a serious economic crisis. The Fund raised the amount of the loan to \$960m. and extended its duration by six months to 18 months in April 1995. *Reuters*

Nissan wins approval for truck production in China: Nissan Motor Co. said yesterday it had received approval from China to build trucks at its joint venture in the northern Chinese city of Zhengzhou. Although the volume will be small — only 5,000 pickup trucks this year and 50,000 in the year 2000 — Nissan sees the approval as opening the door to bigger possibilities in the big Chinese market, a Nissan spokesman said.

"China is a very attractive market for everyone," he said. "This Zhengzhou project is just one step in entering the Chinese market." Zhengzhou Nissan Automobile Co. was formed in 1993 and began preparatory work at the end of last year ahead of the formal approval. *Reuters*

Vietnam targets Q2 industry growth of 14%-15%: Vietnam aims for year-on-year industrial output growth of 14%-15% and a maximum consumer price increase of 3% in the second quarter of 1996, the party mouthpiece *Nhan Dan* said yesterday. The official daily quoted Cabinet Minister Le Xuan Trinh, head of the government office, as saying efforts would be made to step up production of electricity, cement, steel, crude oil, fertilizer and goods that had been sucked in as imports by the country's fast-growing economy.

Exports were targeted at \$1.8 billion and imports at \$2.25b., leaving a deficit of \$450 million. Last week the government reported a first-quarter trade gap of \$840 million. Industrial production in the first three months of the year was 12.4 percent higher than in the same period of 1995. Trinh said policy priorities for the next three months included budget control and measures to control inflation, which ran at an annual rate of 9.4% last month compared with close to 20% a year earlier. *Reuters*

Elbit to offer shares in Vision Systems on Nasdaq

Jerusalem Post Staff and Bloomberg

ELBIT intends to offer at New York's Nasdaq exchange an unspecified portion of its shares in Vision Systems, of which the Haifa-based company holds 78 percent.

In an announcement to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, the compa-

ny said it had filed a prospectus with the US Securities and Exchange Commission concerning the offering, which is to be underwritten by Oppenheimer and Co. and Robertson Stephens and Co.

Vision Systems, located in Yokne'am, makes automated equipment that detects flaws in production lines.

In December, Elbit announced plans to split its health-care, defense and commercial activities into separate, publicly traded companies.

Elbit, which specializes in defense-related and other electronic systems, is itself 40% owned by the Haifa-based Elron holding company.

Last month Elbit announced \$18.4 million earnings for 1995, or 86 cents per share, down from \$30m. and \$1.57 per share the previous year. The company's sales last year rose to \$986.1m. from \$758.5m. in 1994.

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Pound sterling (100,000)	4.250	4.250	4.250	4.500
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.975	1.750	2.125	2.315
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.250	0.275	0.625	
Yen (10 million yen)				

(Rates vary higher or lower, than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (2.496)					
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rate
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.2725	3.2525	3.08	3.18	3.6151
German mark	3.0331	3.1329	3.08	3.18	3.1240
Pound sterling	2.0288	2.1184	2.04	2.15	2.1022
French franc	4.7024	4.7824	4.62	4.65	4.6888
Japanese Yen (100)	0.6109	0.6209	0.60	0.63	0.7986
Dutch Guilder	2.9747	2.9211	2.82	2.87	0.8187
Swiss Franc	1.9820	1.9521	1.84	1.89	2.3115
Swedish Krona	2.5871	2.6289	2.54	2.59	1.8832
Norwegian Krona	0.4817	0.4882	0.45	0.47	2.8181
Denmark Krona	0.4822	0.4822	0.47	0.48	0.4888
Finland Krona	0.5387	0.5425	0.53	0.50	0.4885
Canadian dollar	0.6527	0.6785	0.65	0.65	0.5483
Australian dollar	2.2728	2.4507	2.24	2.35	0.8750
Belgian franc (10)	2.4118	2.3124	2.23	2.35	0.8750
S. African rand	0.7879	0.7803	0.69	0.69	2.4450
Italian Lira (1000)	1.6138	1.0239	0.99	0.78	0.7788
Japanese Yen (10)	2.2817	3.0285	1.95	1.75	1.0238
Israeli Sheqel	1.8887	1.9058	1.81	3.06	2.8584
Scandinavian Krona	—	—	—	—	1.8948
Spanish peseta (100)	—	—	4.25	4.50	4.4829
ECU	3.8723	3.9348	0.87	0.85	0.8723
Israeli Sheqel	4.8484	4.8827	4.78	4.80	3.9180
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4787	2.5107	2.43	2.56	4.3038

* These rates vary according to bank. ¹ Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Other stock market indexes

Table with columns: Index Name, Last, Change. Includes FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, etc.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table with columns: Stock Name, Last, Change. Lists various Israeli companies like Bezeq, Bank Leumi, etc.

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar cross rates (US)

Table with columns: Currency, Last, Change. Lists rates for Yen, DM, etc.

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INFLATION MARKETS

US commodities

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists prices for grains, oil, etc.

London commodities

Table with columns: Commodity, Last, Change. Lists prices for metals, etc.

Spot market metals (US)

Table with columns: Metal, Last, Change. Lists prices for gold, silver, etc.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of Tel Aviv stock prices with columns: Name, Price, Change, Volume. Includes sections for Multi-sided trading, Two-sided trading, and Morning.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices with columns: Name, Price, Change, Volume. Lists companies from various countries.

Shares sink on fears of higher US interest rates

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

Two-Sided Index: 192.89 (-1.50%)
Maof Index: 202.46 (-1.64%)

SHARES sank yesterday amid investor concern that US stocks, including Israeli companies traded in New York, will decline after a stronger-than-expected US jobs report Friday fueled concern for higher interest rates.

The Maof Index fell 1.64 percent to 202.46, and the Two-Sided Index dropped 1.50% to 192.89. Of 991 issues trading across the exchange, nearly three times as many shares fell as rose.

Tokyo shares slide; most European markets closed

HONG KONG (Reuters) - Tokyo share prices closed sharply lower yesterday, with investors growing more worried about a slide on Wall Street later in the day.

Brokers said Japanese investors feared US interest rates might be headed higher after Friday's announcement of an unexpectedly strong addition of 140,000 non-farm jobs to the American workforce in March.

Dow plunges steeply

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks dropped sharply yesterday, after Friday's unexpectedly strong employment data removed the last shred of hope that the Federal Reserve might soon lower short-term interest rates.

But the major indexes took their hits early and held steady for the remainder of the day, even as bond prices deteriorated in the afternoon. On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 88.51, retraced a close of \$5,943.77, having retraced a good portion of its 140-point loss in late morning.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, possibly a page number or margin note.

Eilat avoids relegation

RICHARD ZAACKS

HAPOEL Eilat secured another season in the National League with a 70-61 home victory over Maccabi Rishon LeZion last night.

Shimon Amsalem and Ari Rosenberg scored 35 points between them in the second half as the hosts roared back from a 40-33 deficit in the last 15 minutes to guarantee that Eilat will not be one of the two teams relegated to the second division.

The loss for Rishon drops the team's record to 12-9 and means that Rishon must beat Hapoel Jerusalem next week in its last game to have a chance of making the Final Four.

With so much on the line for both teams, the tension was evident at the game's outset, with many turnovers and poor shooting.

The game was tied at only 23-23 with 4:40 left in the first half, before Rishon took advantage of five consecutive misses by Eilat

from three-point range to take a 34-29 lead at the break.

Rishon opened the second period by increasing the lead to 40-33 with 15 minutes left in the game.

But then Rosenberg - who missed four three-point attempts in the first half - drilled his second three-pointer of the period to give Eilat its first advantage of the half at 47-45 with 9:20 remaining.

Amsalem then ensured that Eilat did not lose the lead, scoring 16 points during the closing stretch.

National Basketball League

Team	W	L	Pts.
Maccabi Tel Aviv	20	1	41
Hapoel Jerusalem	17	4	38
Bnei Herzliya	13	8	34
Hapoel Galil Elyon	12	9	33
Maccabi Rishon	12	9	33
Hapoel Hadera	10	11	31
Hapoel Tel Aviv	9	12	30
Hapoel Sderot	8	13	29
Hapoel Eilat	8	13	29
Maccabi Jerusalem	7	14	28
Maccabi Ramat Gan	7	14	28
Hapoel Givat	2	19	23

Cantona goal puts United six points clear

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United moved six points clear of Newcastle United at the top of the English premier league yesterday when Eric Cantona's seventh goal in eight games gave them a 1-0 home win over lowly Coventry.

Cantona's 47th minute close-range strike not only gave United three more vital points in their hunt for the title but also increased the pressure on Newcastle to win at Blackburn in their game last night scheduled to end after press time.

The victory moved Alex Ferguson's team on to 73 points with four matches to play in the title chase, while Newcastle has 67 with six games to go, including last night's.

Liverpool, whose championship hopes were virtually extinguished when it lost 1-0 at Coventry on Saturday, moved on to 65 points as goals from Stan Collymore and John Barnes gave them a 2-0 win over West Ham.

While the title seems destined for either Old Trafford or St James's Park, the battle to avoid

the drop intensified as the bottom two teams both won.

Bolton improved their faint chances of staying up by coming from behind to beat Chelsea 2-1, while Queens Park Rangers climbed above Coventry on goal difference after beating Everton 3-1.

Bolton stayed bottom but moved to within a point of Coventry who slipped from 18th to 19th behind QPR after losing at Old Trafford.

Wimbledon virtually guaranteed themselves another season in the Premier League after

thumping strugglers Manchester City 3-0, while Aston Villa beat relegation-haunted Southampton by the same score.

In what is shaping into one of the closest relegation fights for years, Southampton and Manchester City both have 31 points, with QPR and Coventry on 30 and Bolton on 29. Three teams go down.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS: Premier League - Aston Villa 3, Southampton 0; Blackburn vs Newcastle (late result); Bolton 2, Chelsea 1; Leeds 1, Nottingham Forest 3; Liverpool 2, West Ham 0; Manchester United 1, Coventry 0; Queens Park Rangers 3, Everton 1; Sheffield Wednesday 1, Arsenal 0; Tottenham 1, Middlesbrough 1; Wimbledon 3, Manchester City 0.

DIVISION ONE: Derby 6, Tranmere 2; Grimsby 3, Ipswich 1; Norwich 2, Bournemouth 1; Oxford United 2, Reading 0; Crystal Palace 2; Southampton 1, Watford 1; Sunderland 0, Charlton 0; Wolves 2, Barnsley 2.

DIVISION TWO: Blackpool 1, Rotherham 2; Bradford 3, Carlisle 1; Bristol City 1; York 1; Crewe 0, Swindon 2; Peterborough 0; Brentford 1; Stockport 0; Exeter 0; Wrexham 3; Walsley 0; Wycombe 0, Oxford United 3.

DIVISION THREE: Cardiff 1, Lincoln 1; Dartford 4, Cambridge United 0; Doncaster 0; Gillingham 1; Exeter 0; Hereford 2; Fulham 2, Chester 0; Haverhill 1; Wigan 2; Leyton Orient 0, Scunthorpe 0; Mansfield 0, Preston 0; Northampton 2, Colchester 1; Stockport 0, Barrow 4; Torquay 0, Plymouth 2.

Premier League

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	34	22	7	5	63	32	73
Newcastle	32	21	4	7	63	33	67
Liverpool	34	19	8	7	69	31	65
Aston Villa	34	18	8	8	51	31	62
Arsenal	34	18	8	8	45	37	62
Tottenham	34	18	10	6	45	35	55
Everton	35	15	9	11	57	41	54
Not. Forest	33	14	11	9	45	43	53
Blackburn	33	14	8	13	47	40	48
West Ham	34	13	12	11	40	47	48
Chelsea	34	11	12	11	38	45	45
Middlesbrough	35	11	10	14	34	44	43
Leeds	33	12	6	16	38	48	42
Sheff. Wed.	34	10	8	16	44	38	38
Wimbledon	34	9	10	15	51	64	37
Southampton	34	7	10	17	30	50	31
Manchester City	35	7	10	18	28	58	31
QPR	35	8	8	21	26	33	30
Coventry	35	8	12	15	38	50	30
Bolton	35	8	5	22	38	57	29

IFA appealing court decision on Hap. RG-Taiba incident

ORI LEWIS

The Israel Football Association is appealing to its supreme tribunal the decision handed down by the same body's lower disciplinary panel over the incident between Hapoel Ramat Gan and Hapoel Taiba which took place two weeks ago.

The disciplinary panel last week ruled that the match between the two clubs should be replayed behind closed doors. The original match at Ramat Gan's home ground in Givatayim was stopped by referee Shabtai Nahmias in the 68th minute after Ramat Gan's captain, Yuval Naim, assaulted one of the linesmen.

The Ramat Ganis were leading 2-0 at the time, but an assault on an official requires the referee to terminate the match instantly. The immediate resulting action is also an automatic 2-0 loss against the offending team. Further disciplinary action is then a matter for the IFA to consider.

The disciplinary committee ruled that Naim had indeed at-

tacked the linesman, and slapped a four-month suspension on him. It also handed heavy fines to the club's management.

Strangely, however, the court did not allow the mandatory 2-0 victory to stand.

Taiba mayor Rafik Haj Yihye, who is also a club official, was also fined for celebrating his team's unexpected win on the pitch in a manner which the court described as "liable to cause a disturbance."

The latter incident, which took place only after the match was stopped, did not have any connection with previous events, and is not seen to have had a bearing on the referee's decision.

The IFA and Taiba, which are also appealing, claim that the court should have stood fully by the referee's decision. They claim that, while, on the one hand, the court accepted his testimony, at the same time it called his credibility into question by not letting the result stand.

SCOREBOARD

NFL - Sunday's results: New Jersey 4, N.Y. Giants 2; Boston 4, Philadelphia 2; Detroit 4, Chicago 1; Colorado 4, Dallas 1; Anaheim 5, San Jose 3.

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TELEVISION

TUESDAY

CHANNEL 1

6:00 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Billy Cat 8:15 Kitty Cat and Tommy 8:30 Fables of King Babar

CHANNEL 2

15:00 The Miracle Worker - adapted from the story by Helen Keller

JORDAN TV

14:00 Irs, the Happy Professor 14:14

Captain Planet 14:40 Jonny Quest 15:00 AV - comedy 15:20 Scientific Eye

MIDDLE EAST TV

14:00 700 Club 14:55 Great White Death 16:30 Dennis the Menace

TV 3 (33)

17:00 Cartoons 17:30 Hila and the Derivates

ETV 2 (23)

No broadcasts

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

8:00 Family Crest (pt) 9:00 One Life to Live (pt)

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

10:30 Man Against the Mob (1989) Bodies in Motion (1991)

Sideways (1993) - a dreamy, asthmatic child dreams he's the stork

CHILDREN (8)

6:30 Cartoons 10:00 Six in the Spring - live studio 10:10 The Heart 10:45

SECOND SHOWING (6)

22:00 Amarcord (1974, Italian) - Federico Fellini's nostalgic masterpiece

DISCOVERY (8)

13:00 Open University 16:00 The Little Magic Flute

CHANNEL 5

6:30 Bodies in Motion 7:30 Basic Training 10:00 Summary of US College Basketball Championship

EUROSPORT

9:30 Bicycle Racing - World Cup from Belgium

14:00 Boxing 15:00 Fast Work: Motor Sports Magazine

PRIME SPORTS

6:00 Figure Skating - World Championship (pt) 7:30 Cricket - Singer Cup

BBC WORLD

News on the hour 6:05 Panorama 10:15 Panorama (pt) 11:30 London International Show (pt)

WEDNESDAY

CHANNEL 1

10:00 Cartoons 10:25 The Return of the Pink Panther (1975)

CHANNEL 2

8:00 Rambo 8:30 Power Rangers

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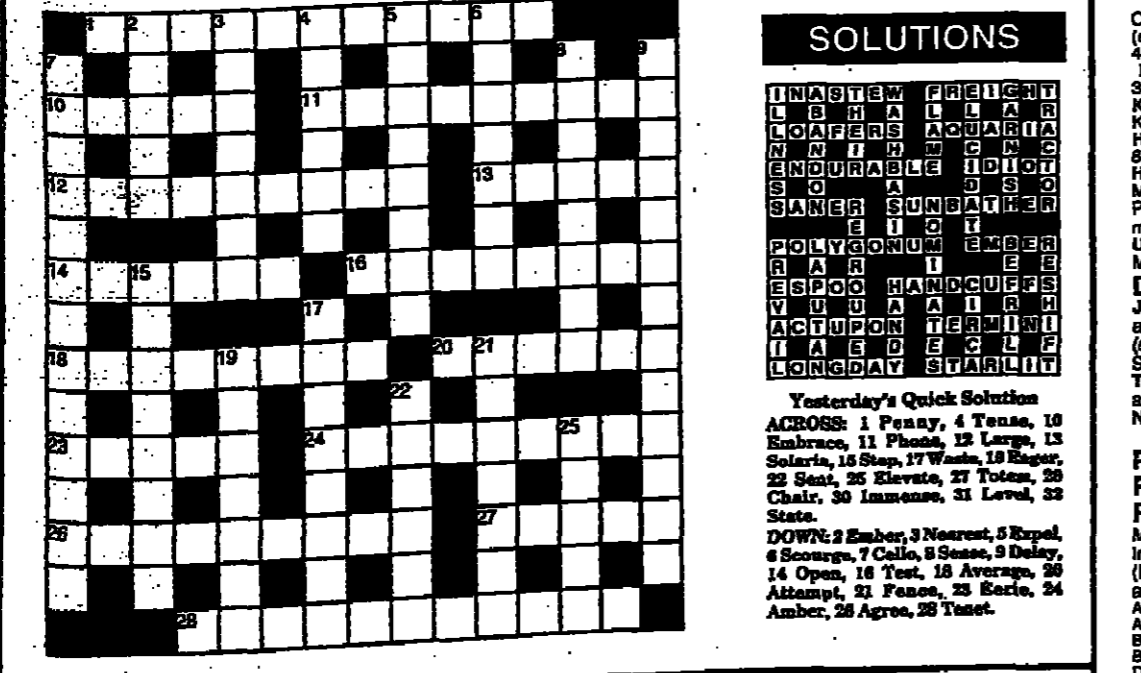
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ACROSS 1 Tense (4) 9 Struck gently (8) 8 Beat (5)

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QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Tense (4) 9 Struck gently (8) 8 Beat (5)

CINEMA

6:45 * Dead Man Walking Tue. 12:15 a.m. Wed. 7:30 * Get Shorty Tue. 10:15

Peretz ing staff mpaign Peres

'Terrorists may try to pose as settlers'

THE police have intelligence information on plans by terrorists to disguise themselves as settlers in order to enter the country and smuggle in explosives, despite the closure, Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz revealed yesterday.

In response, he said, the army is carefully checking all vehicles entering the country from the territories — even ones with yellow Israeli license plates.

"The searches being carried out are a result of the closure, and information that terrorists might try to disguise themselves as settlers to smuggle themselves and explosives into the country,"

BILL HUTMAN

Hefetz spoke to reporters at the Western Wall plaza, where he came to inspect special security measures taken for the annual Priestly Blessing.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 worshippers attended the morning prayer service, which passed quietly except for several minor incidents, including Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetret being booed by many in the crowd when he arrived at the Wall.

Police prevented members of the Temple Mount Faithful from

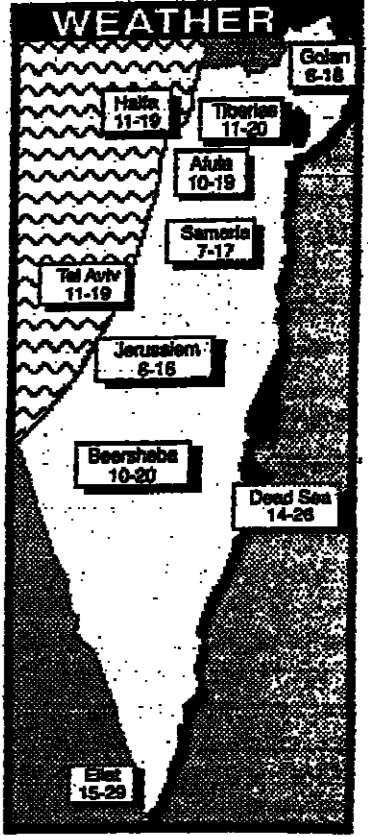
entering the Temple Mount area, on grounds their presence might provoke unrest among Moslems. The police policy was upheld earlier this week by a High Court ruling.

Four youths were arrested after they set up a stand and distributed flyers of the outlawed Kach group near the plaza, the police spokesman said.

Later in the day police arrested 15 activists of the right-wing Hai Vekayam group who tried to enter the Temple Mount waving signs and flags. The group was taken in for questioning after members refused a police order to disperse.



Kohanim recite the Priestly Blessing yesterday at the Western Wall.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear, decline in temperatures.

Wednesday: Fine in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	High	Low	Wind	Cloud	Temp
Amsterdam	10	5	W	Partly	10
Berlin	10	5	W	Partly	10
Brussels	10	5	W	Partly	10
Cairo	25	15	W	Clear	20
London	10	5	W	Partly	10
Madrid	15	5	W	Partly	10
Paris	10	5	W	Partly	10
Rome	15	5	W	Partly	10
Tel Aviv	20	10	W	Partly	15
Yokohama	15	10	W	Partly	12

Unidentified body found in Jerusalem dump

THE headless body of a man, his legs and arms tied, was discovered by children at a construction dump in Jerusalem's Talpilot Industrial Zone yesterday, police said.

There were no identity papers on the man, and as of last night police were still unsure who he was. The body, which was in an advanced state of decay, was sent to the National Forensics Institute at Abu Kabir.

Police said the man was appar-

BILL HUTMAN

ently murdered elsewhere, and then dumped at the site. The children who found the body were looking for scraps of metal in the rubble.

Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit personally supervised the initial investigation. He told reporters it was unclear whether the victim was an Arab or Jew, but that the death was apparently caused by foul play.

There were what appeared to be cuts on the body, but this was only an initial observation, and only after the forensics tests were done would it be possible to say how the man was killed, a police spokesman said.

A tractor was brought to the scene to help police search the rubble for the victim's head. The man may have been decapitated, or the head simply fell off decayed body, according to police.

Man apparently killed by snake

MAGEN David Adom yesterday issued a warning about how to handle snakebites after a 22-year-old guard at a youth camp near Ness Harim outside Jerusalem was found dead, apparently from snakebite.

A mobile intensive care unit from the Jerusalem station was alerted by the man who was to replace the night-shift guard. He had found him lying down, without a heartbeat, and signs of snakebite on his leg. The MDA

JUDY SIEGEL

team found the characteristic signs of snakebite and determined that he had died several hours earlier. The exact cause of death has yet to be declared officially.

MDA noted that during the spring and summer, high grasses provide good hiding places for snakes after their winter hibernation. The glands of the poisonous ones are full of venom, thus they are likely to attack their victims

several times and cause serious harm.

MDA (101) should be called immediately in the case of a snakebite. Until they arrive, a snakebite victim should not be moved, and should be prevented from walking or standing, and not allowed to eat or drink. They should be placed on the ground and be kept completely still so the venom does not spread through the body quickly. The affected limb should be bound to the body as if it were a fracture.

The snakebite itself should not be cut or cauterized, nor should the venom be sucked out. Tourniquets should not be attached, and the snakebite should not be cooled.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, seven of hearts, jack of diamonds, and ten of clubs.

Messala removed from blood bank commission

THE High Court of Justice yesterday ruled that Addisu Messala could not continue to serve on the Navon Commission investigating the Ethiopian blood affair.

In doing so, the court agreed with petitioner Dr. Amnon Ben-David, who heads the Magen David Adom blood bank and had argued that Messala could not serve on the commission because he is biased against him.

According to the petition, Messala said the Ethiopians saw Ben-David as responsible for the destruction of their blood donations, and wanted his resignation.

Messala chairs the umbrella organization of Ethiopian immigrant groups, which had petitioned the High Court, asking it to

order Health Minister Ephraim Sneh to fire Ben-David. The petition was withdrawn after the commission was established. Ben-David's lawyer said that petition showed Messala is biased against his client.

The court had recommended after that hearing that Messala resign from the commission, but he chose not to do so, holding the High Court in contempt.

Court President Aharon Barak said the decision to remove him was not based on his ethnic background, but on his remarks before the commission was established. Barak pointed out that no complaint was raised about an Ethiopian social worker serving on the commission. (Tim)

Royal Jordanian Airlines opens Tel Aviv office

HAIM SHAPIRO

TEL Aviv's Rehov Shalom Aleichem took on a festive air yesterday, as a Jordanian folklore group entertained local residents and visiting tourists with a selection of music and dancing to mark the opening of the first Royal Jordanian Airline office here.

Nader Dehabi, president and chief executive officer of the Jordanian airline, whose subsidiary Royal Wings made its maiden commercial flight to Israel on Sunday, stressed that Royal Jordanian was interested in cooperation, rather than competition with El Al.

"We're not here to compete with anybody. We are here to make travel easier for the people of Israel," Dehabi told a news conference shortly after the official opening, attended by Mayor Roni Milo. He admitted that Royal Jordanian's prices for Far Eastern

destinations are lower than El Al's, but said its prices to Europe and North America are far lower than his airline's.

"We have two different markets," he said. The excursion round trip fare from Ben-Gurion Airport to Amman is \$120, while Royal Jordanian's lowest fare to Bangkok is \$650. Royal Jordanian flights to the Far East fly over Saudi Arabia, but not Iran, he said.

Dr. Majdi Sabri, Royal Jordanian vice-president for marketing and sales, said that afternoon flights from Israel are convenient for Royal Jordanian flights to the Far East, which all leave in the evening, but added that planning considerations have centered on when the sole plane used on the Israel route, a Dash-7, would be available.

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HAIFA: 11 Shalom St. Tel: 04-8394400, Fax: 04-8394400
Reservations: 24 hours

Handwritten text in Hebrew: "המחיר הנמוך ביותר"